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BENGALURU
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Jehan registers maiden win in a feature race in Formula 2
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NEARBY

Some Rainbow Drive residents get notice

BENGALURU

The tahsildar has issued notice to 13 residents of the luxury Rainbow Drive gated community, which was flooded after heavy rain, for alleged encroachment of a storm-water drain. The authorities alleged that the residents' properties block major areas of the culvert, making the layout prone to flooding.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Outflow from KRS, Kabini dams nearing 300 tmcft

MYSURU

The cumulative outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) and the Kabini reservoirs between June 1 and September 10 has been higher compared to the outflow in the same period during the last three years.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

Engineering courses in Kannada medium

BENGALURU

Two private colleges have expressed interest to offer engineering courses in Kannada medium this year. During the 2021-22 academic year, five private engineering colleges offered Kannada-medium engineering courses.

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGES 3 & 4

Tejashwi suggests a reality check for Cong.

'Let regional parties be in driving seat where they're stronger'

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Congress should allow the regional parties to be in the "driving seat" against the BJP wherever they are stronger, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav said in an interview to *The Hindu* on Sunday.

"As far as the Congress is concerned, among the Opposition parties, it currently holds the highest number of seats. In my view, the Congress should fight the seats where it is in a direct fight with the BJP, but wherever regional parties are stronger as in Bihar, the Congress should let us sit in the driving seat," the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader said.

Mr. Yadav stressed that the "Bihar model" should be emulated across the country to form an anti-BJP front.

In the State, the Congress is a minor ally, with the senior partners, Janata Dal(U) and Rashtriya Janata Dal, conceding only two Cabinet seats to the party. By the understanding between the allies, the Congress could get another Cabinet post in future, but a ceiling has been put in place.

"In Bihar, after all parties came together, the BJP stands isolated. And if this is replicated nationally, then it is clear that the BJP can be ousted," Mr. Yadav said, though adding that the seat distribution between the Opposition parties should be worked out according to each party's strength.

The RJD leader said not uniting against the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha election was a mistake that should not be repeated in 2024.

Larger role

Last week, Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar was in Delhi for three days meeting various leaders, advocating Opposition unity.

Mr. Yadav, who is in Delhi for a day, has not scheduled any such meetings, though he said he is in constant touch with all Opposition leaders.

The RJD is clear on playing a larger role in the Opposition dynamics at the national level, and with this aim in mind, it has scheduled its national executive meeting in Delhi on October 9, followed by an open session for party workers on October 10.

Opposition unity, however, looks like an elusive dream with the Trinamool Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi refusing to work with the Congress. Mr. Yadav said that to save democracy and the Constitution, the parties should let go of their ego.

FULL INTERVIEW ▸ PAGE 11

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>
> **TEJASHWI YADAV**, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader

Kyiv reclaims Russian-held territory

This winter is a turning point and can lead to de-occupation, says Zelensky

REUTERS
KYIV, KHARKHIV

Ukrainian forces kept pushing north in the Kharkiv region and advancing to its south and east, Ukraine's Army chief said on Sunday, a day after their rapid gains made Russia abandon its main bastion in the area.

President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed Ukraine's advance in the northeast Kharkiv province as a potential breakthrough.

"I believe that this winter is a turning point, and it can lead to the rapid de-occupation of Ukraine," Mr. Zelensky said. "We see how they (occupiers) are fleeing in some directions. If we were a little stronger with weapons, we would de-occupy faster."

"In the Kharkiv direction, we began to advance not only to the south and east, but also to the north. There are 50 km to go to the state border (with Russia)," Ukraine's chief commander General Valeriy Zaluzhnyi said.

He said the country's armed forces have regained control of more than 3,000 square km since the beginning of this month.

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Sunday that Russian forces were hitting Ukrainian Army positions in the Kharkiv with precision strikes.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Push back: Ukrainian troops preparing to transport a captured Russian tank in the Kharkiv region. • REUTERS

Pawar seeks joint plans against BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) patriarch Sharad Pawar on Sunday slammed the Narendra Modi government for its alleged failure in safeguarding India's strategic interests, conceding space to China at the Line of Actual Control and rising inflation.

He asked his party workers to strategise with like-minded parties and work towards keeping the Bharatiya Janata Party away from power.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Bengaluru boy emerges topper in JEE (Advanced)

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A Bengaluru student aced the JEE (Advanced) exam, the results of which were announced on Sunday.

R.K. Shishir, a student of Narayana E-Techno School, Vidyaranyapura, emerged on top in the Common Rank List (CRL) of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay zone. He obtained 314 marks out of 360.

Vishal Bysani, a student from Allen Carrier Institute, got a CRL 13 of IIT Bombay zone and is the second topper of the State.

Shishir got 109 marks in Chemistry, 96 in Physics, and 109 in Mathematics. He also got the first rank in CET-2022 pharmacy and fourth rank in the Engineering stream. He got second rank (AIR) in Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana, which was conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

Shishir wants to pursue Computer Science Engineering at IIT, Bombay. He shared his happiness with *The Hindu*: "It was really challenging, but I am very happy that I could make it. I would definitely thank the Narayana system, my parents, and my teaching faculty who were with me in and out during two years of my advanced preparation."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 5

R.K. Shishir

Water rhythm

Festive beat: Snake boats blazing the water tracks on the Pampa river during the Uthrittathi boat race in Aranmula in Kerala on Sunday. • LEJU KAMAL

Milk price to be increased by ₹3 a litre?

Efforts so far to raise the price has been stonewalled by the government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After over three years, the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is likely to increase selling price of Nandini milk by ₹3 a litre.

While a decision on this was taken at the KMF's annual general body meeting here on Friday, its date of implementation, however, is yet to be confirmed as any hike in price has to be approved by the State government. It is learnt that the KMF has decided to pass on the entire hike amount of ₹3 to farmers.

The development comes ahead of the monsoon session of the State legislature where the issue could come up for discussion.

Current price

Currently, a litre of Nandini milk is sold at ₹37 in Karnataka.

Milk Unions have pointed out that the cost of milk is around ₹50 a litre in neighbouring States, and that the milk producers have been affected owing to rise in input cost for the dairy industry.

Sources close to KMF chairman Balachandra Jarkiholi said that the decision to hike the selling price by ₹3 was cleared by the general body unanimously after pressure came from all the 14 district milk unions. "Though pressure has been building up to raise the milk price, all efforts by the chairman has been stymied by the government in the last eight months," sources said, adding that it was felt that the increase was necessary to keep the milk industry financially viable.

So far, despite multiple appeals to increase the price, the government has resisted the moves, and the latest proposal comes amid the decision of milk producers in Mandya, Kolar, Ramanagaram, and Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts deciding to take out a rally in Bengaluru on September 22 seeking increase in milk price by ₹5 a litre.

Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd. president Narasimhamurthy confirmed that the KMF general body had unanimously passed a resolution to increase the price of milk by ₹3.

"We are hopeful that it will be given effect soon and benefit farmers for whom animal husbandry had become less lucrative."

Financially not viable

Experts feel that milk production may not be financially viable if the farmers do not get higher procurement price which now stands at ₹27 a litre.

A litre of Nandini milk costs ₹37 in Karnataka. • FILE PHOTO

> **The KMF general body had unanimously passed a resolution to increase the price by ₹3. We are hopeful that it will be given effect soon and benefit farmers for whom animal husbandry had become less lucrative.**
>
> NARASIMHAMURTHY
> Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd. president

Ruling, Opposition parties gird up their loins as legislature session begins today

Both BJP and Congress are keen to expose the 'failures' of the other

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Sparks are bound to fly in the 10-day monsoon session of the State legislature, which is set to begin from Monday, as both the ruling and the Opposition parties are trying to use it as a platform to build a tempo for launching preparations for the Assembly elections that are just seven months away.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai himself has set the tone for the legislature session by daring the Opposition to stop the BJP from gaining strength and coming to power again if they had guts.

The remarks, made by the Chief Minister on Saturday at his government's anniversary programme at Doddaballapur, have indicated the political combative mood among the political parties when the session is set to start.

In fact, the Congress has already launched a counter-attack on the ruling BJP over the Chief Minister's remarks and dropped hints about the legislature session turning out to be a platform for politically taking on each other.

Of course, there are enough political ammunition for the session to turn out to be stormy as the Opposition is eagerly waiting to put the government on the mat over the episode of alleged failure to properly manage the civic infrastructure that resulted in several areas of Bengaluru being flooded during the recent rains, the flooding of Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, the series of alleged corruption scandals, including the one in selection of police sub-inspectors, the contractors' allegation of 40 per cent commission being demanded for grant of contracts, disturbance of communal harmony marked by serial killings of youth in Dakshina Kannada, and the row over revision of school textbooks.

The BJP too is keen to expose what it calls scams during the regime of the erstwhile Congress government, during the legislature session.

Already, the political tirade has reached a feverish pitch among all the three political parties.

The problems Bengalureans underwent following rains and a host of other issues that have invited criticism of the government in recent times are expected to dominate the legislature proceedings. • FILE PHOTO

Expert team to visit Hoysala temples

It will cover Belur, Halebid, and Somanathpur and submit report to UNESCO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

An expert team, including a representative from the International Commission on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and other officials will visit the Hoysala temples at Belur, Halebid, and Somanathpur this week before submitting a report to UNESCO ahead of declaring them as a World Heritage Site.

The team, comprises Tiang Kian Boom, ICOMOS expert; Janwij Sharma, Additional Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India, and Madan Singh Chouhan, Director, World Heritage (ASI), and will be in the State from September 13 to 17. The team will arrive in Bengaluru on September 13 and visit the 12th Century Chennakeshava temple at Belur on September 14, the Hoysaleshwara temple (12th Century) at Halebid on 15th and the 13th Century Keshava temple at Somanathpur on September 16.

The team will dedicate an entire day at each of the monuments before leaving for Bengaluru for a discussion with the Chief Secretary on September 17.

Devaraju, Director, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, said the team would record its observation and have a discussion with the Chief Secretary and subsequently submit a report to UNESCO. "We are confident that the monuments will be declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site by May 2023," Mr. Devaraju said.

The temples at Belur, Halebid, and Somanathpur are India's official nominations for inscription as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and Belur and Halebid are on the tentative list since 2014 as "The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas".

Somnathapur has been included as part of the serial nomination process that provides for inclusion of new sites under the same category as long as they share the same characteristic features.

Besides, it has to meet UNESCO's criteria of displaying outstanding universal value.

A file photo of the Chennakeshava temple at Belur in Hassan district.

THE HINDU
Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

A burning issue

56,000 The number of new machines to be distributed to Punjab farmers for managing paddy stubble and to stop stubble burning in the upcoming paddy harvesting season. This will take the tally to 1,46,422 machines. Between 2018 and 2022, 90,422 machines have been given to farmers. Paddy straw burning in Punjab and Haryana is a major reason behind the alarming spike in air pollution levels in the national capital in October and November. PTI

An ageing problem

3 In lakh, the number of Canadians who said in August 2022 that they had left their job in order to retire at some point in the last year, up 31.8% from one year earlier and 12.5% higher than August 2019, before the onset of the pandemic. Adding to the problem, more than 6,20,000 Canadians have entered the 65+ age category during the pandemic, a 9.7% increase in that population group. Presently, one in five workers in Canada is 55 years or older. The retirement problem is particularly dire in skilled fields like trades and nursing. REUTERS

Ambani vs Adani

134 In ₹ billion, the worth of an arbitration claim filed by Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. in relation to a deal to sell its Mumbai power-distribution business to Adani Transmission Ltd. Reliance cited a breach in a December 2017 agreement, and filed its statement of claim before the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration, according to a stock exchange filing. "The financial implication cannot be ascertained and is contingent upon the final outcome of arbitration and subsequent legal challenges," Reliance said. REUTERS

Ukraine advances

3,000 In sq kms, the lost territory that has returned to Ukrainian control, according to Valery Zaluzhnyi. Ukrainian officials this weekend hailed the "astonishing" pace of the counter-offensive. The country's foreign minister used the momentum to appeal to Western allies for more sophisticated weapons. The reaction in Moscow so far has been muted, but a military map presented by the Russian defence ministry showed that its forces have made a major withdrawal. AFP

Raking revenue

38 The % by which the overall revenue of Indian Railways rose at the end of August 2022 over the corresponding period last year. The revenue from passenger traffic was ₹25,276.54 crore, an increase of ₹13,574.44 crore (116%) year-on-year. Passenger traffic also increased compared to last year in both the segments — reserved and unreserved. The growth from the long-distance reserved mail express trains has been sharper than the same in passenger and suburban trains, the Railways said. Goods revenue climbed by 20% till August-end this year. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The tedious process of adoption

What laws determine adoption rules in India? Why is referring cases to District Magistrates cause for concern?

THE GIST

- From September 1, District Magistrates (DM) have been empowered to give adoption orders instead of courts. All cases pending before courts have to be now transferred.
- The revised rules have parents, activists, lawyers and adoption agencies worried as cases already before courts for the past several months will have to be transferred and the process will have to start afresh. The Central Adoption Resource Authority says there are nearly 1,000 adoption cases pending before various courts in the country.
- Adoptions in India are governed by two laws — the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

JAGRITI CHANDRA

The story so far: From September 1, District Magistrates (DM) have been empowered to give adoption orders instead of courts. All cases pending before courts have to be now transferred. Hundreds of adoptive parents in the country are now concerned that the transfer process will further delay what is already a long and tedious process. There are questions whether an order passed by the executive will pass muster when an adopted child's entitlements on succession and inheritance are contested before a court.

What do the amended rules say? How did they come about?

The Parliament passed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021 in July last year in order to amend the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act), 2015. The key changes include authorising District Magistrates and Additional District Magistrates to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act by striking out the word "court". This was done "in order to ensure speedy disposal of cases and enhance accountability," according to a government statement. The District Magistrates have also been empowered under the Act to inspect child care institutions as well as evaluate the functioning of district child protection units, child welfare committees, juvenile justice boards, specialised juvenile police units, child care institutions etc.

The Act and the corresponding rules came into effect from September 1. The amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Model Rules, 2016 say, "all the cases pertaining to adoption matters pending before the Court shall stand transferred to the District Magistrate from the date of commencement of these rules."

Why is there concern over the revised rules?

The revised rules have parents, activists, lawyers and adoption agencies worried as cases already before courts for the past several months will have to be transferred and the process will have to start afresh. A petition for adoption orders is filed after a parent registers for adoption, who is then assessed through a home study report, referred a child and subsequently allowed to take a child in pre-adoption foster care pending an adoption order. A delay in such an order can often mean that a child can't get admission into a school because parents don't yet have a birth certificate, or like in one case, parents unable to claim health insurance if a child is admitted to a hospital.

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) says there are nearly 1,000 adoption cases pending before various courts in the country. Parents and lawyers also state that neither judges, nor DMs are aware about the change in the JJ Act leading to confusion in the system and delays. According to CARA, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is drafting a letter to be sent to State governments clarifying that where adoption orders have already been given, or will be given shortly, the DMs should consider them valid. But there are also larger concerns.

"District Magistrates don't handle civil matters that bestow inheritance and succession rights on a child. If these rights are contested when a child turns 18, a judicial order is far more tenable to ensure the child is not deprived of his or her entitlements." says Nilima Mehta, former Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai.

What is the adoption procedure in India? What are the challenges?

Adoptions in India are governed by two laws – the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. Both laws have their separate eligibility criteria for adoptive parents.

Those applying under the JJ Act have to register on CARA's portal after which a specialised adoption agency carries out a home study report. After it finds the candidate eligible for adoption, a child declared legally free for adoption is referred to the applicant. Under HAMA, a "dattaka hom" ceremony or an adoption deed or a court order is sufficient to obtain irrevocable adoption rights. But there are no rules for monitoring adoptions and verifying sourcing of children and determining whether parents are fit to adopt.

There are many problems with the adoption system under CARA but at the heart of it is the fact that there are very few children in its registry. According to the latest figures there are only 2,188 children in the adoption pool, while there are more than 31,000 parents waiting to adopt a child which forces many to wait for upto three years to be able to give a family to a child. This allows traffickers to take advantage of loopholes in HAMA. These concerns were also highlighted by a Parliamentary panel in August in its report on the "Review of Guardianship and Adoption Law", which recommended a district-level survey of orphaned and abandoned children.

According to Nilima Mehta, what is needed is a "child-centric, optional, enabling and gender-just" special adoption law like in other countries. "HAMA is a parent-centric law that provides son to the son-less for reasons of succession, inheritance, continuance of family name and for funeral rights and later adoption of daughters was incorporated because kanyadaan is considered an important part of dharma in Hindu tradition. As far as the JJ Act is concerned, the law handles issues of children in conflict with law as well as those who are in need of care and protection and only has a small chapter on adoptions," Dr. Mehta explains.

In 2015, the then Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi centralised the entire adoption system by empowering CARA to maintain in various specialised adoption agencies, a registry of children, prospective adoptive parents as well as match them before adoption. This was aimed at checking rampant corruption and trafficking as child care institutions and NGOs could directly give children for adoption after obtaining a no-objection certificate from CARA. But the new system has failed in ensuring that more children in need of families are brought into its safety net.

"Yes, there was a need to check malpractices and improve monitoring. But in the new system the soul in adoption is gone. The human contact, bonding and psychological preparedness has been taken away. Therefore, parents may look at other ways to adopt a child." One other dangerous repercussion of this is that in the past few years, there is an increasing number of disruptions and dissolutions, where children are returned after an adoption is formalised.

EXPLAINER

The Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme in Rajasthan

How is this initiative different from the MGNREGA for villagers? What are some of the similar schemes being implemented in other States?

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The story so far: The Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme has rolled out in Rajasthan with the objective of providing economic support to the poor and needy families living in the cities through work to be provided on demand for 100 days in a year. The Congress government has touted it as the country's biggest scheme to give guaranteed jobs to the people residing in cities, on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for villagers started by the UPA government at the Centre in 2006.

Who are eligible to get jobs?

Those in the age group of 18 to 60 years residing within the limits of urban local bodies are eligible to demand and get employment in the identified segments. There is no income limit, though the poor and destitute people, especially those who lost their livelihood during the pandemic, will be given preference. More than 3.5 lakh people across the State have got themselves registered under the scheme so far and job cards have been issued to 2.25 lakh of them.

A budgetary provision of ₹800 crore, announced by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in the State Assembly earlier this year, has been made for the scheme in 2022-23. At least 50 persons in each ward of urban local bodies will be given employment and the work permitted under the scheme will be approved and executed through committees at the State, district and local body levels. The State government will also reward the municipal bodies doing good work under the scheme. The cost of material and the payment for the labour for work of general nature will be in the ratio of 25:75 and will vary for special work which needs technical expertise. The State government's Department of Local Bodies will be responsible for the scheme's implementation.

What are the categories of tasks?

The tasks to be carried out under the scheme have been clubbed mainly under eight heads. The first is environment protection, which will involve tree plantation at public places, maintenance of parks and watering plants on footpaths and dividers. The next is water conservation, where the tasks may be allotted for cleanliness and improvement of ponds, lakes and stepwells, construction, repair and cleaning of rain water harvesting structures and restoration of water sources. Other categories are heritage conservation, removal of encroachments and illegal boards, hoardings and banners, stopping defacement of property and

The launch of the scheme in Jaipur on September 9. •PTI

service-related works.

As part of convergence, the people engaged under the employment guarantee scheme can be employed elsewhere in other schemes, already having a material component, which require the labour. Eligible people will get work such as tree plantation, cleaning ponds, collecting garbage from door to door and segregating it and catching stray animals. Apart from all these categories, the State government can add new tasks or amend the ones already included in the list. A Jan Aadhar card, introduced by the State government, or its registration slip will be required for registration, which can be done at e-Mitra centres. While more than 31,000 muster rolls have been issued for the work, the wages will be paid at the rate of ₹259 a day to unskilled labourers and ₹283 a day to skilled labourers. The 'mates' or supervisors on top of the labourers will get ₹271 a day. Livelihood rights activists feel that though the scheme would help reduce distress among the urban population, the ultimate test of its success will be to ensure that it improves the wage rate in the labour market, which was one of the major contributions of MGNREGA.

What will be its political implications?

The Congress government has tried to reach out to large sections of the population with the launch of the scheme and has sought to make an emotional connect by naming it after the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. While experts have opined that the labour force participation rate's gap between the rural and urban areas is widening, a few other schemes, including the payment of unemployment allowance, are already operative in the State. The latest initiative may benefit the ruling Congress in the run-up to the 2023 State Assembly election, as the party will highlight it as a major step to address the plight of urban poor, which had not received much attention earlier. The identification of unemployed youths in urban areas may require an approach different from the one adopted in the villages for MGNREGA. Besides, the kind of jobs provided under the scheme will be different than those in the rural areas and will need a more skilled workforce. The scheme may turn out to be a game changer for the people who lost their jobs in the pandemic and are struggling to make ends meet amid high inflation.

Are similar schemes operative in other States?

The Rajasthan government has prepared the employment guarantee programme after studying similar such schemes operative in other States. Several States are looking favourably towards an urban version of MGNREGA. These schemes include the Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme in Kerala, Urban Wage Employment Initiative under UNNATI in Odisha, Mukhya Mantri Shramik Yojana in Jharkhand and Mukhya Mantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana in Madhya Pradesh.

The demand for a job guarantee scheme in the cities is increasing because of the growing distress among the urban poor, higher unemployment rates in urban areas in comparison with villages, the persistently high inflation affecting the people and the prevalence of low-wage and poor quality informal work in urban areas. Moreover, as against the rural unemployment being mostly seasonal, unemployed people in the cities face problems throughout the year.

THE GIST

- The Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme has rolled out in Rajasthan with the objective of providing economic support to the poor and needy families living in the cities through work to be provided on demand for 100 days in a year.
- Those in the age group of 18 to 60 years residing within the limits of urban local bodies are eligible to demand and get employment in the identified segments.
- The initiative may benefit the ruling Congress in the run-up to the 2023 State Assembly election, as the party will highlight it as a major step to address the plight of urban poor.

Some Rainbow Drive residents get notice for 'encroachment'

Their properties block major areas of the culvert, say authorities

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East tahsildar has issued notice to 13 residents of the luxury Rainbow Drive gated community in the city, which was flooded after heavy rain recently, for alleged encroachment of a storm-water drain.

The authorities alleged that the residents' properties block major areas of the culvert, making the layout prone to flooding during the rain. "We have sent notice to 13 residents who have encroached the storm-water drain in the layout. We have conducted a survey to identify the encroachments and found 35 illegal encroachments near Junnasandra and Halanayakanahalli lake, which are near the Rainbow Drive layout," tahsildar Ajith Kumar told *The Hindu*.

"This initial notice which we have sent is to the properties in Junnasandra survey numbers. On Tuesday, we are conducting a meeting with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) regarding the eviction drive and we will only evict the area where it is feasible for the water flow," he added.

A file photo of the flooded Rainbow Drive layout on Sarjapur Road in Bengaluru.

According to the Bengaluru district administration, Halanayakanahalli lake is the connecting lake for Junnasandra lake and Saul Kere. The layout is located near Halanayakanahalli lake. Whenever Junnasandra lake overflows, the water does not reach Halanayakanahalli lake due to the encroachments of its channel and that leads to the flooding, said officials.

Since August, the layout has flooded four times. In August first week, residents of Rainbow Drive layout took to the streets in protest against the civic authorities' apathy. According to residents, the gated community was constructed about 25 years ago and has nearly 300 houses.

Whenever the layout is flooded with more than three feet of water, the residents are forced to use tractors and boats from their houses to the main gate to negotiate the stagnant rainwater. Days after the rain stopped in the city, tractors, boats, and rafts were being used by the layout residents while the Fire Department staff were draining water out continuously.

The layout is one of the posh localities on Sarjapur Road which is spread over 36 acres, with about 400 plots varying from 1,500 sq. feet to 3,000 sq. feet in size.

With relief from rain, it's back to office for companies on Outer Ring Road

'People using the stretch have to be careful and take note of weather conditions'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

As the city got some relief from rain over the last few days, employees of companies on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) are going to be back in the office from Monday. The employees switched to work from home the last week following inundation in the area following a downpour.

Last week, leading to flooding on the ORR in the eastern part of Bengaluru, the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) instructed almost a million tech and bank workers employed by various enterprises in the ORR area to work from home for the whole of last week.

The ORRCA, which is a representation of several IT and banking companies along the stretch from Silk Board junction to the K.R. Puram corridor, issued an advisory on Sunday which stated: "Most companies are planning to return to business as usual starting from September 12 (Monday). Repairs on the Outer Ring Road and arterial roads continue. Please monitor traffic and weather conditions as applicable for possible impact on commute time."

"Since the water has been removed from the Eco Space and the ORR stretch, the road is now accessible without any issue of waterlogging, hence many companies have asked their employees to come to the office. But still, people using the stretch have to be careful and take note of weather conditions as applicable for possible impact on commute time," Krishna Kumar, general manager at ORRCA, told *The Hindu*.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is clearing properties which have encroached storm-water drains (rajakaluves) near the ORR, which had led to widespread flooding on the stretch. Recently, the civic authorities demolished a pathway as well as a wall at a tech park on the Outer Ring Road, for blocking the SWD which was connected to Bellandur lake. They have also constructed a temporary parallel drain, which is about 300 m on the service road at the same place, to ensure that there would be no flooding in case of heavy rain. The drain has been linked to a culvert to remove water.

Meanwhile, the employees are still not ready to come to the office as they have seen worse during the rain on the ORR. Prasanth Rao, a techie working in an IT firm in the ORR, said, "We have been asked to come to the office from Monday, but we are still anxious about the rain. Every evening, the city receives a downpour which can't be predicted. Hence, going to the office is still scary due to the flooding."

"It is better that companies wait and watch till the weather comes to normal and see again if flooding doesn't happen on the stretch and call us for work in office," he added.

A resident of Bellandur, Deepthi M., said water was being pumped out of some properties on the stretch during the weekend.

Two killed in separate road accidents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Two persons, including a 50-year-old manager of a private firm, were killed and two were injured in separate road accidents reported in Whitefield and Banasawadi police station limits on Saturday morning.

According to Whitefield traffic police, bike rider Ranjan Rai, from West Bengal, was returning home with his friend Kritika Singh, who was riding pillion. He lost control over the bike at Varthur Kundalahalli gate, rammed the median, fell from the bike and sustained injuries. The duo was taken to a hospital, where doctors declared Ranjan Rai as dead, while Kritika is recovering.

In another incident, a 23-year-old cook was killed and the pillion rider injured when the scooter they were riding slipped into a drain on HRBR main road on Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Tara Badayik, who was riding the scooter, while pillion rider Dileep, 38, was injured and is recovering in a hospital.

The duo was heading to work when the accident occurred. Passers-by rushed them to a hospital nearby where Tara was declared brought dead.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners: **Sri.B.V.Narasimhaiah (S/o Venkateshaiah) and his wife Smt.N.B.Soubhagya,** residing at: No.30, Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya, 2nd Main, New Extension, SRS Road, Peenya, Bangalore-560058.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential site No.24, bearing Khatha No.104/30/24 (old Khatha No.1138 of Dasarahalli CMC) [formed in the land bearing Sy.No.30 (portion of Belmar Estate) of Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, converted for non-agricultural residential purposes vide Conversion Order bearing No.BDS/ALN/SR(N) 66/95-96 dated 27/11/1995, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore], measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 60 ft, situated at Vidyanagar, Dasarahalli, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Site No.25
West by : Site No.23
North by : 30 ft Road
South by : Private property

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

READER'S MAIL

Skybus system for Bengaluru

Sir, – Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari batting for a skybus system in Bengaluru to decongest the city and enhance last-mile connectivity could not have been better timed. Mr. Gadkari also suggested exploring the idea of trolley buses, which draw power from overhead wires to make public transport comfortable and cost-effective.

Bengaluru's burgeoning traffic woes were aggravated during the recent torrential rain, infuriating the captains of industry.

N.J. RAVI CHANDER,
Bengaluru

Subways instead of skywalks

Sir, – There is a proposal to construct more skywalks in Bengaluru. It will be very difficult for the elderly people to climb the steps just to cross some 30 ft or 40 ft road. There are so many skywalks around the city which are, however, used only by a few people Skywalks also spoil the aesthetics of the beautiful city. Instead, the authorities can construct broad subways just like in cities such as Chennai and Mumbai with good lighting, so that the sideways can be given to vendors for rent. This will reduce roadside vendors who unnecessarily occupy the pedestrian pathways.

I request the authorities concerned to consider this option.

A. PARTHASARATHY,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz.
In the latest issue September 12 Monday,the following explainers are available:

- **Explained |** The tedious process of adoption bit.ly/adoptionpro

Online exclusives

- **Watch |** Madras gave a reception fit for a Queen in 1961 bit.ly/queenmadras
- **Watch |** How is Russia choking Europe's energy needs? bit.ly/russiaenergy
- **Watch |** What makes handmade pappadams so special? bit.ly/pappadamvid
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Case against Ganesha idol committee for creating ruckus

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Chikkajala police have registered a case of nuisance against the organisers of a Ganesha Chathurti procession for allegedly creating a ruckus during the event.

Based on the complaint filed by police sub-inspector Mailari Sunagar on Thursday, the police charged the organisers, identified as Manjunatha alias 'Rice' Manja, and his associates, under section 290 (public nuisance) of the IPC.

In his complaint, Mr. Sunagar said the organisers were carrying out the procession to immerse the idol around 11.30 p.m. and creating a nuisance and causing a public disturbance. Despite repeated reminders and warnings, the committee continued violating the rules and guidelines laid down by the jurisdictional police at the time of granting permission for the installation of the idol.

Earlier this month, members of a pro-Hindu organisation staged a protest in front of Chamarajapet police station accusing the police of imposing strict rules for Ganesha idol installation. The protesters were detained and later released.

THE HINDU GROUP
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I, **R.Kalpana** D/O S.R.Rajagopalan R/O B-006, Ground floor, Mithuna White water Apartment, No 1, Shirampura cross, Amrutha halli main road, Bangalore - 560064 and have lost my M.phil Degree Certificate bearing enrollment number 91/65/MS/10, Year 1994 issued by JNU, New Delhi in

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **ANUPA** ANN ROSE CHACKO, R/at 109, Ashirwad Colony, Bang 43 have changed my name from ANUPA EBENEZER KUMAR to ANUPA ANN ROSE CHACKO for all future purposes by affidavit dated 09/09/2022, Sworn before the Notary SESHAGIRI, Bang 43.

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EDUCATIONAL

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, **EBENEZER** KUMAR, R/at 109, Ashirwad Colony, Bang 43 have changed my name from K EBENEZER to EBENEZER KUMAR for all future purposes by affidavit dated 09/09/2022, Sworn before the Notary SESHAGIRI, Bang 43.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LVII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
(CCH-58)
O.S. No. 25709/2020
Hg : 20/10/2022

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and its branch office at Mythri Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff

AND
Edman Benik S ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Edman Benik S
Aged about 33 years,
S/o. Sesuraja,
R/a. #44/4, Mulakantamma Temple, 1st Main Road, 5th Cross, Yemlur Post
Bangalore- 560037

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs. 4,66,014.20/-** (as on 07/02/2020) along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 57Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore (CCH-58) in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the **20th October 2022** at **11:00 A.M.** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the **08th day of September 2022.**

Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

Dubious deal: The Pakistan Air Force Sherdils (Lion Heart) squad's fighter jet F-16 flies during Pakistan Day celebrations at Karachi, Pakistan in 2017. •REUTERS

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Behind the Pakistan F-16 deal, a tale of many wheels

The sale was considered only symbolically important by the U.S., but it had many strings attached

THE GIST

- The sale by the United States of F-16 military aircraft to Pakistan, announced in 2005, was celebrated as a sign of deepening strategic ties between Islamabad and the Bush administration in Washington.
- Privately, however, the U.S. acknowledged the "reality" that the F-16 programme would not change India's "overwhelming air superiority over Pakistan." In fact, the cables bluntly assert that the F-16s would be "no match for India's proposed purchase of F-18 or equivalent aircraft."
- Fully aware of such limitations, the U.S. continued to press ahead with the deal, and the leaked cables document hectic parleys to bring it to fruition.

S. ARUN MOHAN

India has raised "strong objections" during official meetings, with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu in Delhi last week, to the U.S. plan for Foreign Military Sales worth $450 million for hardware, software and spares for the F-16 fighter jet programme with Pakistan. In this article, published on May 30, 2011, S. Arun Mohan through confidential cables acquired by The Hindu through WikiLeaks talks about how the U.S. had used the F-16 jet deal to "yield foreign policy benefits for the U.S." at the expense of Pakistan.

The sale by the United States of F-16 military aircraft to Pakistan, announced in 2005, was celebrated as a sign of deepening strategic ties between Islamabad and the Bush administration in Washington. Described by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as an attempt to "break out of the notion that [India and Pakistan are in] a hyphenated relationship," the decision was met with anguish in New Delhi. But leaked U.S. diplomatic cables suggest that the sale was used only to further America's broad strategic interests, with Pakistan standing to gain little from the deal.

The despatches, from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, indicated that the deal was, among other things, meant to assuage Pakistan's fears of an "existential threat it perceived from India." The diplomatic cables, accessed by *The Hindu* through WikiLeaks, suggested that the purpose of the sale was to divert Pakistan's attention from "the nuclear option," and give it "time and space to employ a conventional reaction" in the event of a conflict with India (> 151227: confidential). Privately, however, the U.S. acknowledged the "reality" that the F-16 programme would not change India's "overwhelming air superiority over Pakistan." In fact, the cables bluntly assert that the F-16s would be "no match for India's proposed purchase of F-18 or equivalent aircraft."

Given India's "substantial military advantage," one cable (> 197576: confidential) even surmised that the F-16s would at the most offer "a few days" for the U.S. to "mediate and prevent nuclear conflict."

Fully aware of such limitations, the U.S. continued to press ahead with the deal, and cables document hectic parleys to bring it to fruition. Before the agreement was signed in September 2006, the U.S. played hardball to make Pakistan sign the Letter of Acceptance (LoA). Islamabad had threatened to delay it further, raising additional demands. The U.S. Ambassador to Islamabad, Ryan Crocker, suggested that Washington "convene" the Pakistani Ambassador, Ali Durrani, to remind him that "missing the deadline [to sign the LoA] would have serious ramifications."

"Do not think there is a better deal out there if this one expires," was one of Ambassador Crocker's suggested bargain lines for Washington to use (> 77877: confidential/noforn). The agreement was inked two weeks after the cable was sent.

At the time of signing the LoA, Major General Tariq Malik, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Production, had expressed reservations about the payment schedule as an "immense strain on Pakistan's fiscal and foreign exchange reserves..., jeopardising growth." But Mr. Malik's memo was dismissed by Mr. Crocker as "separate from the valid, legal contract" (> 80337: confidential/noforn).

But when "a cash-strapped" Pakistan government approached the U.S. two years later for Foreign Military Financing (FMF) to perform mid-life updates for the existing F-16 fleet, the succeeding Ambassador, Anne W. Patterson, was concerned that Washington would be "rewarding economic mismanagement." The annual disbursement of FMF had "produced a culture of entitlement within the Pakistani military," according to the diplomat (> 151227: confidential).

Why, then, did the U.S. push hard to realise the agreement, apart from the stated objective of "additional business for U.S. defense companies"?

If, according to American diplomats, the threat from India was the primary consideration for the Pakistan military, the F-16 sales would not tilt the strategic balance by their own admission. However, the cables suggested that the U.S. was confident that Pakistan would "still fully invest in its territorial defense, despite current economic challenges." On the other hand, "our [U.S.] cancelling the sale would emphasize that we favor maintaining Indian superiority at Pakistan's expense and feed anti-Americanism throughout the military" (> 197576: confidential).

Another reason to sell F-16s, according to the same cable, was to "exorcise the bitter legacy of the Pressler Amendment" in the 1990s, when the U.S. refused to deliver F-16s that Pakistan had paid with "national money." Pakistan was even made to undertake costs for storing the fighters in Arizona.

For the Pakistan military, the new deal would be tangible proof of the "post-9/11 bilateral relationship.

Avoiding a blow-up

"The bottom line is that Pakistan cannot afford the $2 billion required to complete this F-16 program," wrote Ambassador Patterson in 2009 (> 189129: secret). "At the same time, nothing is more important to good military-military (and overall U.S.-Pakistani) relations than avoiding a blow-up over the F-16 case."

Even if the sale was considered only "symbolically important" by the U.S., the deal came with many strings attached.

The U.S. was more interested in the use of F-16s by Pakistan for counter-terrorism purposes along the Af-Pak border.

Although the Pakistani Air Force (PAF) had been disinclined to use F-16s "due to the risk of collateral damage in civilian areas," Ms. Patterson suggested linking the FMF for mid-life updates to "explicit commitments by the PAF that accept Close Air-Support training" (> 151227: confidential).

A year after the agreement was concluded, Pakistan learnt that mid-life updates for the F-16s could only be performed in a third country. Since the LoA did not bear any references to "cryptokeys" for the aircraft, officials were also worried that the U.S. would withhold the capability of the F-16s. When these concerns were raised by President Pervez Musharraf and Air Chief Marshal Tanvir Mehmood, the U.S. response was hardly comforting.

"We know many in Washington are dismayed by what they consider a juvenile reaction on Pakistan's part. The Pakistanis do not fully understand our requirements for sharing encrypted devices and need to be reassured that the aircraft will still fly without the cryptokeys." (> 122429: secret) Eventually, it was agreed that Pakistan would pay $80 million to perform the updates in Turkey. The U.S. also expressed concerns about basing the F-16s in Pakistan due to "concerns about potential technology transfer to China." The outcome? Pakistan was made to fork out another $125 million to "build and secure a separate F-16 base" (> 197576: confidential). The purported aim of selling the F-16s to Pakistan was to "yield foreign policy benefits for the U.S.," but the cables reveal that these benefits were gift-wrapped almost always at Pakistan's expense.

The Pakistan Cables were shared by The Hindu with NDTV in India and Dawn in Pakistan

THE DAILY QUIZ

On September 11, 1973, Chilean socialist president Salvador Allende was deposed and killed in a military coup. Here's a quiz on other such putsches.

1 In February 1992, a military officer organised a coup against incumbent president Carlos Andres Perez but the attempt was unsuccessful. This military officer later on went to become the democratically elected President of the country. Name him and the country.

2 Mikhail Gorbachev was sought to be deposed by a group of officials within the Communist Party in a coup that lasted three days in August 1991. Who was the person who served as the acting President of the USSR during these three days?

3 The leading opposition party in the Jatiya Sangsad (the main legislature) in Bangladesh was created by a person who was a former Army chief and who came to power in a bloodless coup in 1982. Name the party and the person.

4 In 1953, when a democratically elected prime minister sought to audit a British oil company on whether it was paying contracted royalties to his country, the company refused to cooperate. The country's parliament then voted to nationalise its holdings. This led to a coup orchestrated by the U.S. and U.K. resulting in the prime minister losing his office. Name the prime minister and the country.

5 This person attempted to organise a coup during the Nazi invasion of his country in 1940 but failed, only to later become the prime minister in what was effectively Nazi rule. His second name has now become a term for any traitor who collaborates with an enemy force. Name him and his country.

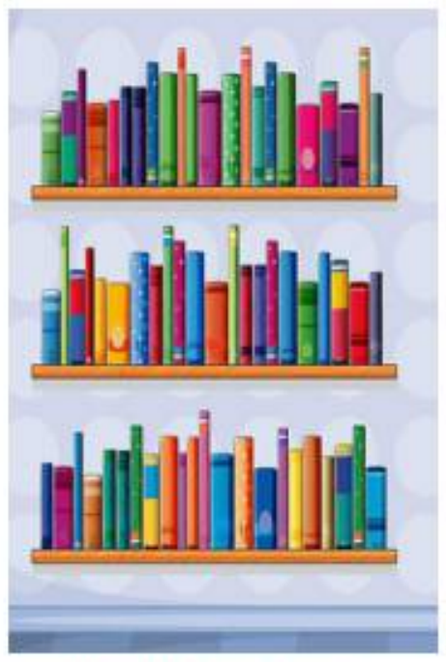
◄ Name this Afghan politician who was the leader of the 1973 coup that overthrew the monarchy and who went on to became the first President of the country between 1973 and 1978, before he was deposed in another coup and assassinated in 1978. •WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the September 9 edition of the daily quiz:
1. The official name of North Korea. **Ans: Democratic People's Republic of Korea**
2. The date on which the 'Day of the Sun' in North Korea is observed. **Ans: April 15 which is an annual public holiday; the birth anniversary of Kim Il-sung.**
3. The two bodies of water that form the western and eastern border of the country. **Ans: Yellow Sea and Sea of Japan**
4. The granfather and father of Kim Jong-un. **Ans: Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il**
5. The line of latitude the Korean Demilitarised Zone straddles. **Ans: 38th Parallel**
6. The blue in the North Korean flag symbolises this. **Ans: Commitment to peace**
7. The meaning of Konanui Haenggun (March of Hardship). **Ans: The devastating famine in the 1990s which left hundreds dead**
8. The airport at which Kim Jong-nam was assassinated. **Ans: Kuala Lumpur**
Visual: This stadium is reckoned to be the largest stadium in the world and is named after this day. **Ans: May Day**

Early Birds: Srijan Patra| Ishika Taneja| Shivani Bhardwaj| Prajwal K. M.

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Either read the paper or watch the news

Frenemies need to be ghosted, nothing good ever comes out of them!

S. UPENDRAN

"I asked my dad yesterday, what he did after dinner when he was a kid. He said that he used to either listen to the radio or played some board game with his sisters."

"Play some board game and not 'played'. You see what you're basically saying is when your father was young, he used to listen to the radio or he used to play some board game. You cannot say 'used to played'. When you use 'or' to combine two ideas, you must make sure that both verbs use the same form."

"I see. How about this example, then? *When my father was young, he either listened to the radio or played board games.*"

"That's a good example. In this case, both verbs make use of the past tense form. *When we were young, we either took the bus or walked to school with friends.*"

"Talking about friends, isn't your friend Das getting engaged next week? Are you planning to go to Mumbai?"

"First of all, he no longer considers me his friend. Ever since my recent promotion, he sees me more as a frenemy."

"Frenemy? What does it mean?"

"It's a combination of two words – friend and enemy. A 'frenemy' is someone who pretends to be your friend, but who, in fact, sees you as a rival. A threat."

"He pretends to be your friend because it is beneficial for him. He has something to gain by being your friend."

"That's right! But he doesn't treat you with any hostility. He's aware of your usefulness to him. Here's an example. *After my unexpected promotion, some of my colleagues became my frenemies.*"

"My uncle used to say that in politics, you have more frenemies than friends."

"That's true. The same is true in Bollywood and Hollywood, I suppose."

"Is Das your frenemy? Is that why you're reluctant to go to Mumbai?"

"I'm not going because nobody is sure if there's going to be an engagement. Not even Das."

"What do you mean? How is that even possible? I mean, shouldn't Das..."

"Apparently, Jyothi has ghosted him."

"Ghosted him? What does that mean?"

"When you 'ghost' someone, you end your relationship with the individual."

"This relationship...is it romantic or ..."

"The two individuals are romantically involved, when one of them suddenly goes completely silent. The individual cuts off all contact with the former boyfriend/girlfriend. Doesn't respond to any of the messages or calls from the partner. This act of going completely silent is the individual's way of telling the other person that the relationship between the two is over."

"And no explanation is provided as to why the person is being dumped?"

"None, whatsoever. Here's an example. *After going out with her for several months, Satish decided to ghost poor Nitya.*"

"*When I asked Harish why he was looking dull, he said he'd become a victim of ghosting.*"

"Talking about ghosting, did you watch the movie I'd recommended?"

"Sorry, I've been busy the past couple of days. What's it about?"

"It's about a girl who ghosts her fiancé."

"Because of which they become enemies, I suppose? Not my kind of movie, I'm afraid."

He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.

-Oscar Wilde

upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Take Science out of the lab

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCKPHOTO

The IndiaBioscience Outreach Grant was set up to motivate young researchers to step out of their labs and build stronger connections with the public through innovative science outreach efforts

MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN

We are currently in what observers call the 'Golden Age of Science Communication'. Science communication is the practice of informing and inspiring the public with scientific knowledge. And it has come a long way from the dry lectures that were the go-to tools for sharing information about scientific research and new findings, and for myth-busting.

With new media practices evolving in recent years, science communication has taken on several exciting and innovative forms – podcasts, documentaries, social media posts, comics, newsletters, and many more. More importantly, it has become accessible. It is just a matter of nudging researchers and scientists towards thinking of ways to communicate their thoughts and expertise, and giving them a tangible incentive to do so.

The IndiaBioscience Outreach Grant (IOG) was launched in 2020, specifically to achieve this purpose – to facilitate early career scientists to get started on science communication and outreach. It intends to motivate young researchers to step out of their labs and build stronger connections with the broader public through innovative science outreach efforts.

IOG is an initiative of IndiaBioscience, an almost 15-year-old project operating within the campus of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru. It aims to bring the whole life-science research community under one roof to promote networking, foster partnerships, and enable resource and knowledge sharing.

Shantala Hari Dass, a PhD in neuroscience, is the Executive Director of IndiaBioscience. She is a strong advocate for communicating Science and building and supporting the scientific community.

Dass talks to *Education Plus* about the need for science outreach and how IOG helps towards that cause.

...building scientific temper is crucial for maintaining the health of our communities as well as for fighting misinformation...

Why is science outreach important?

As the pandemic had made it abundantly clear, building scientific temper within our society is crucial for maintaining the health of our communities as well as for fighting misinformation and superstition. Scientists play an important role in this process by encouraging narratives supported by experimentally-validated facts, as well as by using their expertise to weigh in on various important issues. However, there exists a large gap in communication between scientists and society at large, with the results of scientific research often remaining confined to elite journals and not reaching the public, including the taxpayers who have funded the research. Scientific research doesn't end with lab work or the publication of scientific papers – it is completed only when it is communicated to the larger public.

How does the public benefit from this?

Long-term: Builds scientific temperament. Short-term: Depending on the project, it brings scientific knowledge and advances to select target groups (such as school students/ undergraduate students/ and so on). This not only takes Science out of the lab but also provides additional and engaging ways to learn and discuss science. For example, one of our winning projects from the previous years – 'Talk to a Scientist' – is a weekly online event where children get to interact with a scientist.

What can be done by public and private institutions to promote science outreach?

By encouraging/mandating science outreach and Science communication activities by researchers; Budgeting time for them to undertake such activities; Including this as a parameter for promotions, awarded grants, and so on; Instituting awards and fellowships for outstanding science communication; Creating more avenues for researchers to engage with science communicators and public engagement experts; Creating a dedicated science communication/ outreach office that facilitates researchers to undertake such activities; Dedicating a budget for such activities.

3rd IndiaBioscience Outreach Grant

Eligibility: Researchers in Life Sciences, who have set up a lab in India not more than eight years ago. (They are actively encouraged to partner with students, artists, writers, filmmakers, and other scientists, and build a team to undertake the proposed project.)

Rewards: ₹1 lakh for first-time grant winners and ₹1.5 lakh for extension grant winners

Indirect benefits:

Areas of assessment: A panel of experts will screen the applications based on the following:

Application deadline: September 30

For more details: indiabioscience.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

BYPL SASHAKT Scholarship

BSES Yamuna Power Limited's (BYPL) scholarship supports the higher education of meritorious students from underprivileged sections of society.

Eligibility: Open to Indian students residing in Delhi only and studying in the final year of the undergraduate programme (any stream) in a government institute in Delhi. They must have secured more than 55% marks in their last examination. TAnnual family income must not exceed ₹6 lakh from all sources.

Prizes and Rewards: Up to ₹30,000
Deadline: October 15
Application: Online
b4s.in/edge/BYPL2

Schaeffler India Hope Engineering Scholarship

Schaeffler India's scholarship supports engineering students from economically weaker sections of society.

Eligibility: Open to students from Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu who have scored more than 60% in Class 12 (Science) in the academic year 2021-22. They must be enrolled in the first year of the engineering program at any recognised college in India. Annual family income should be less than ₹5 lakh.

Prizes and Rewards: Up to ₹75,000 per year for the complete duration of the engineering program
Deadline: September 15
Application: Online
b4s.in/edge/SIHE12

Saksham Scholarship Programme for Drivers' Children

Mahindra Finance's scholarship supports children of drivers (all light motor and small commercial vehicles) who hold a valid driving license.

Eligibility: Applicants' children must be currently studying (Class I to PG) in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Students from Class 9 onwards must have scored 60% or more marks in the previous final examination. Annual family income from all sources must not be more than ₹4 lakh.

Prizes and Rewards: Scholarship ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 for 1 year
Deadline: September 15
Application: Online
b4s.in/edge/SKSP1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

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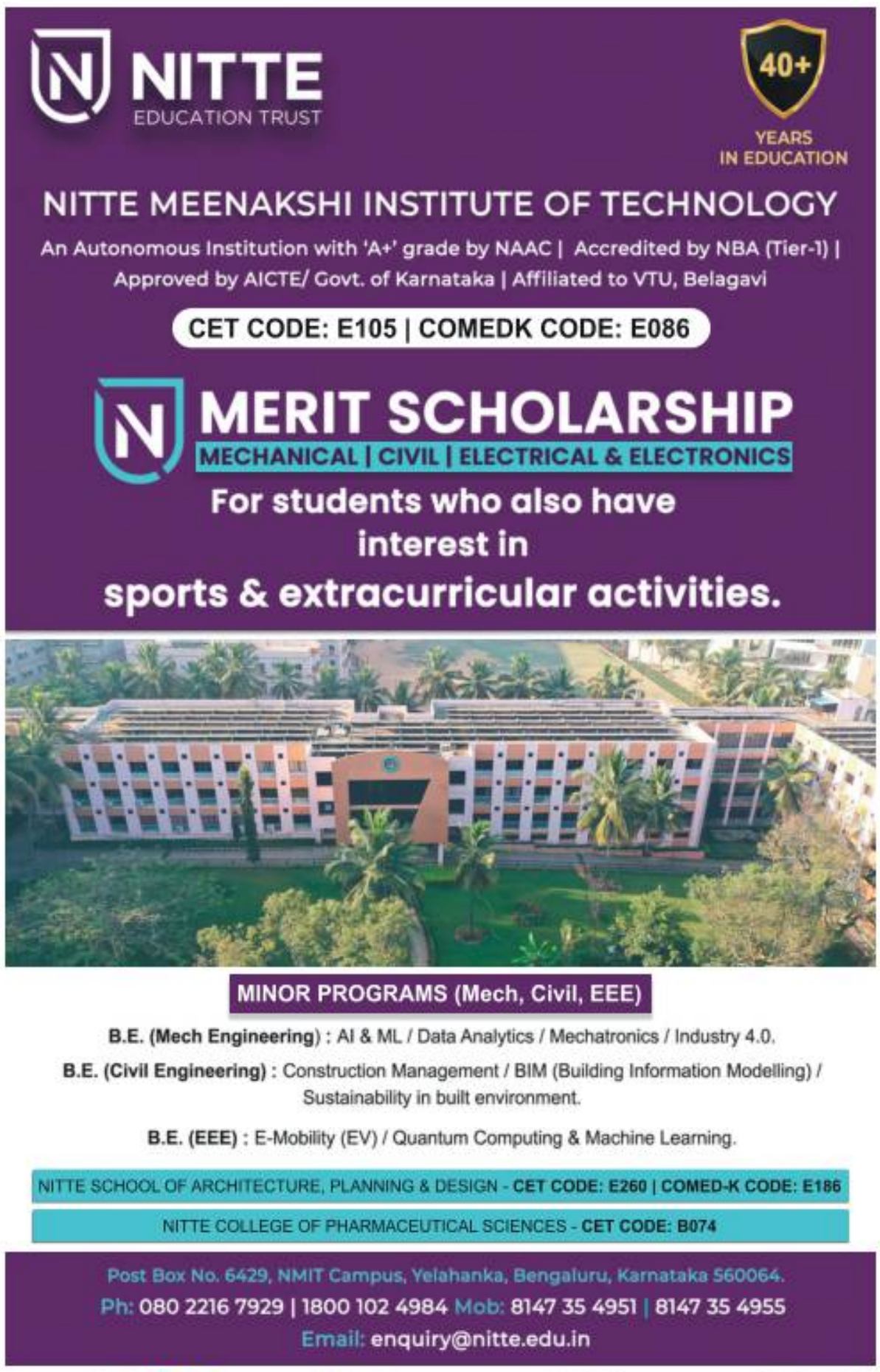
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PRAVEEN KUMAR
220410022565

AMIT PUJAR
220410852424

AIR* 205 Rank — KARTIK K — 220410614746
AIR* 253 Rank — NISARGA M J — 220410350048
AIR* 330 Rank — SHIVAKUMAR B N — 220410381099
AIR* 565 Rank — HARSHITH C — 220410289033
AIR* 745 Rank — RAJESH C H — 220410402373
AIR* 753 Rank — PRERITHA NS — 220411069127

AIR* 835 Rank — MADHUSUDAN — 220411037939
AIR* 952 Rank — BANUPRASAD K — 220410784383
AIR* 1052 Rank — NANDINI — 220410399730
AIR* 1685 Rank — AKSHATHA N — 220410353551
AIR* 1729 Rank — VARUN U S — 220410969528
AIR* 1953 Rank — PAVANKUMAR I D — 220410792596

* Category Ranks

Vision NEET Academy 2022 Toppers

680 Marks — HARSHITH C — 220410289033
661 Marks — PRERITHA N.S — 220411069127
658 Marks — VARUN U S — 220410969528
655 Marks — PAVANKUMAR I D — 220410792596
649 Marks — PRAJNA J — 220411084601
631 Marks — MAINUDDIN S M — 220410432326
628 Marks — MANJUNATH O S — 220410908350
627 Marks — MD SAQUIIB — 220410344758
626 Marks — PRAVEEN KUMAR — 220410022565
626 Marks — SRINISHA N V — 220410207071
623 Marks — MANJUNATH BM — 220411063060
620 Marks — ABDUL SAMAD — 220411094987
619 Marks — SANJANA G P — 220410835341
618 Marks — SAMARTH R K — 220410841936
617 Marks — BHARATH PATIL — 220410964879
616 Marks — VINOD K S — 220410672021
612 Marks — TIPPU GOWDA — 220410346515
611 Marks — MD ZAHEER — 220411357222
610 Marks — SHREYAS K S — 220410086097
607 Marks — AKSHAY GH — 220410368414
603 Marks — SRISATYASAGAR — 220410786825
603 Marks — CHETAN B — 220410822122

and many more...

22 Students 600+ Marks
88 Students 550+ Marks
165 Students 500+ Marks
243 Students 470+ Marks
369 Students 450+ Marks

OUR STUDENTS PERFORMANCE IN NEET -2022

Fee Concession on total marks scored in 2022 NEET Results

20% Fee concession* — 300-350 Marks
25% Fee concession* — 350-400 Marks
30% Fee concession* — 400-450 Marks
40% Fee concession* — 450-500 Marks
50% Fee concession* — 500+ Marks

* This Fee concession is applicable till September 15th, 2022

Year wise details of Students who achieved Govt Medical Seats(MBBS) in Karnataka

2015 — 471 Medical Seats
2016 — 689 Medical Seats
2017 — 590 Medical Seats
2018 — 648 Medical Seats
2019 — 642 Medical Seats
2020 — 610 Medical Seats
2021 — 395 Medical Seats

Expecting 415+ MBBS (Govt. Medical) seats in 2022

Outstanding Academic Growth of some of our Students in NEET-2022

STUDENT NAME	PLACE	NEET 2021 MARKS	NEET 2022 MARKS	MARKS IMPROVED
PAVANKUMAR I DURGAD	Belagavi	367	655	288
PRAJNA J	Mysuru	362	649	287
MAINUDDIN SHANUR MAKANDAR	Belagavi	412	631	219
MANJUNATH O S	Chitradurga	329	628	299
MOHAMMED SAQUIIB QADIR	Ballary	389	626	237
ABDUL SAMAD	Bijapur	348	620	272
BHARATH PATIL	Yadgiri	378	617	239
VINOD K S	Mysuru	320	616	296
TIPPU GOWDA	Mandya	397	612	215
CHETAN.B	Ballary	360	603	243
ADITYA KUMAR	Bengaluru	360	591	231
SHIVREDDY D T	Gulbarga	360	591	231
MANJUSHREE	Ballary	358	590	232
YOGITHA M N	Mandya	250	585	335
ADITYA H KULKARNI	Gulbarga	344	582	238
PUNEETH A P	Mandya	218	582	364
CHARITHA R	Mysuru	211	577	366
VAISHNAVI S	Ballary	278	576	298
CHARAN N	Davanagere	335	562	227
RAJESH Y S	Ballary	320	562	242
KUNAL SOMASHEKAR CHONNAD	Belagavi	212	558	346
DIVYA	Gulbarga	238	556	318
RAHUL DHAREPPA METRI	Bijapura	206	555	349
KARTIK KONDABHINGI	Gadag	300	552	252
HITHESH A V	Tumkur	320	550	230
ROUNAK V CHAWLA	Bagalkote	169	548	379
YASEEN A PATVEGAR	Bijapur	224	535	311
SUBIKSHA PREETHI	Rasipuram	190	526	336
ADARSH R AMBORE	Hospet	254	521	267
HEMANTH N S	Chikkamagaluru	210	521	311
SHRIVASTAV S CHAVAN	Bijapur	281	520	239
HARSHA A KANAVI	Gadag	205	518	313
MAYUR S URS	Mysuru	185	507	322
PRAVEEN G T	Davanagere	276	503	227
MALLIKARJUN S M	Koppala	270	500	230

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Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 12	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:23
RISE 20:00	SET 07:43
TUESDAY, SEP. 13	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:22
RISE 20:40	SET 08:34
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 14	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:21
RISE 21:21	SET 09:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid.. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Two colleges to offer Kannada medium engineering courses

VTU has urged the State government to promote these courses

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Two private colleges have expressed interest to offer engineering courses in Kannada medium this year.

During the 2021-22 academic year, five private engineering colleges offered Kannada-medium engineering courses. A total of 17 students opted for the Kannada medium during the counselling conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). All of them, however, gave up the seats by the time of admission.

This year, SJC Institute of Technology, Chickballapur, and Bheemanna Khandre Institute of Technology (BKIT), Bhalki, have got permission to offer engineering courses in the Kannada medium from the All-India Council for Technical Education. The SJC Institute of Technology had offered Kannada medium engineering courses during 2021-22 too.

A view of the Visvesvaraya Technological University in Belagavi. • FILE PHOTO

As per the recommendations of the new National Education Policy, the AICTE has decided to offer engineering education in regional languages and given provision to teach civil and mechanical engineering courses in these languages.

No other colleges showed interest to offer Kannada medium engineering courses during the visit of the Local Inspection Committee from the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).

Karisiddappa, Vice-Chancellor of VTU, told to *The Hindu*, "As a part of providing technical courses in the regional language, this year, two colleges have come forward to offer engineering courses in the Kannada medium. Last year, 17 students initially opted for Kannada medium engineering courses, but they changed their minds and gave up the seats. This year, we gave vast publicity for these courses and the content and have also written to the State government to promote these courses. We have successfully translated the syllabus and sent it to the colleges.

'Provide reservation'

"Job opportunity is the main concern for Kannada medium engineering graduates. I have written to the government to provide reservation for these graduates in government engineering posts in departments such as Public Works, Irrigation, KPTCL, Bescom, BDA, BBMP, and other local bodies. It will help promote the Kannada medium engineering courses," Dr. Karisiddappa said.

Man from Bangladesh caught with Aadhaar card

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

An alert police team from Indiranagar caught a 43-year-old Bangladeshi national allegedly moving suspiciously with an Aadhaar card on Friday.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police rounded up Alameen on the suspicion that he was peddling drugs, but instead, they recovered mobile phones with several contact numbers registered in Bangladesh.

Upon questioning, Alameen confessed that he is from Barisal Division of Bangladesh and had crossed the border illegally with his family 10 years ago and settled in Delhi before moving to Bengaluru, the police said. The accused said that he was living in a migrant colony at Kadugodi with his family and working under a BBMP contractor for the last eight years and even got an Aadhaar card done.

The police have booked the accused under the Foreigners Act and the Passports Act and are investigating to ascertain the source of the Aadhaar card.

Three booked

Earlier, the Bommanahalli police raided a private enrollment agency situated at Hongasandra on Begur main road and booked three persons, including the owner and a private doctor, for getting the Aadhaar for Bangladeshi migrants for a price of ₹2,500 per card.

Based on a tip-off from the Internal Security Division, a team of police roped in a private person, identified as Riyaz, for a sting operation. Riyaz approached Praveen, owner of SSB Communication, with a request for an Aadhaar card without submitting any required documents.

Praveen took ₹2,500 and promised to get him the card within a week. As per the deal, he filled the form with fake details and changed his name to Haneef, son of Nazeer, resident of Hongasandra, and even gave a fake date of birth of January 1, 2001.

Praveen sent Riyaz to the house of Sunil D. Inchal, a retired doctor, at J.P. Nagar for attestation. After the attestation, Riyaz was taken to an Aadhaar verification centre on Bannerghatta Road and got the biometric procedure done with the help of his contact, who worked as an operator at the centre.

After the completion of the formality, Praveen told Riyaz to get the Aadhaar card from his office in a week, following which Riyaz reported the matter to the police.

After a successful sting operation, the police team raided the shop and booked the owner, the doctor, and operators, charging them for cheating and forgery.

Business literature festival from tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Adani juggernaut, less-known mega corporate scandals, meltdown of big brands, such as Café Coffee Day, Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, future of money, data half-truths, start-up literature: these are just a few topics the Bangalore Business Literature Festival will feature in its eighth edition, which will be held from September 13 to 17.

Another attraction this year is startup literature and a full day has been dedicated to it in hybrid mode at the Bangalore International Centre. A release said Indian and international authors and business leaders will engage in fireside chats that are sure to excite and entertain entrepreneurs, executives, and students, while professionals and entrepreneurs can expect insights that will help them wade through rough times.

"The festival will capture the spirit of resilience and how this will help businesses, entrepreneurs and executives lift themselves up and consolidate from setbacks from the pandemic, economic slowdown, and plan for a better future," added the release. The 2022 winner of the BBLF C.K. Prahalad Best Business Book Award will be announced on September 17. The award carries a purse of ₹1 lakh. The jury includes Rishikesha Krishnan, Director, IIMB, Jessie Paul, thought leader marketing, and Malavika Harita, branding guru. For details, visit www.bizlitfest.com.

Solatium to dependents of forest martyrs up

It will be increased from ₹30 lakh to ₹50 lakh, says Chief Minister Bommai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government has announced that the compensation awarded to the families of forest martyrs will be increased from ₹30 lakh to ₹50 lakh. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai made the announcement after paying respect to martyrs on the occasion of the National Forest Martyrs' Day on Sunday.

Mr. Bommai said that enhancing the compensation amount would provide more financial security for the dependent family members.

Gun salute being given to martyrs at the National Forest Martyrs' Day programme in Bengaluru on Sunday. • PTI

Welfare measure

"During his tenure as Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa had increased the compensation from ₹20 lakh to ₹30 lakh. The State government on compassionate grounds is doing the welfare of the dependents of martyrs," he said.

On afforestation activities, Mr. Bommai said the government was aiming to increase the forest cover from 21% to 30%. "In the State, barren forests spread over 4 lakh hectares. Afforestation activities can be taken up in these land," he said. He added that through budgetary allocation ₹100 crore would be spent on afforestation activities.

To reduce man-animal conflict, the government had allocated ₹100 crore. He instructed the Forest Department authorities to strive hard to bring down man-animal conflict.

"There is a need to bring down man-animal conflicts. There have been repeated incidents of elephants entering villages located near the forests. In Bandipur forest, measures have been taken to bring down the man-animal conflict through innovative measures," said the Chief Minister.

He recalled the contributions made by the former Forest Minister Umesh Katti who died recently.He appealed to the public to coexist with nature and pass on the resources to future generations.

MLA files defamation case against Sindhuri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Janata Dal (S) MLA and former Minister S.R. Mahesh has filed a defamation case against IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri, who earlier served as Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru.

Advocate Arun Kumar, who is representing Mr. Mahesh, told reporters here on Sunday that a petition had been filed in the court of Second Additional District Judge in Mysuru seeking damages of ₹1 crore for allegedly defaming the JD(S) leader. Taking cognisance of the petition, the court had asked Ms. Sindhuri, who is now Commissioner, Muzrai Department, to reply by October 20, 2022, he said.

Mr. Arun Kumar said a legal notice had already been served on Ms. Sindhuri for alleged defamatory statements against his client.

In the legal notice, dated June 26, 2022, he said Ms. Sindhuri had, in an audio conversation as well as reports in the media, tried to "belittle and defame" his client while seeking an unconditional apology in leading newspapers as well as pay compensation of ₹1 crore.

Four held after footwear is thrown at mosque

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Four people, including main accused Nitesh, have been arrested by Sirguppa police after a video clip showing one of them throwing a footwear at a mosque during a Ganesha idol immersion procession a day before went viral on Sunday.

Circle inspector of police Yeshwant Bisalahalli told *The Hindu* that the accused have been charged under various sections of the IPC, including 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 505 (statements conducing to public mischief).

Responding to the video clip posted by Habeeb on Twitter, Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) Alok Kumar said his department had "secured the accused persons" and assured him of "appropriate legal action".

Performance of Bidar college students in JEE lauded

14 of them have become eligible to get admission in IIT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KALABURAGI

Shri Channabasaveshwar Gurukul Residential Pre-University College at Kardyal in Bhalki taluk of Bidar district has once again recorded outstanding performance as 14 of its students have become eligible to get admission in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)

Samiksha Shivakumar

Samiksha Shivakumar emerged as the college topper with 394the All India Rank in Joint Entrance Examination (Main) in the general category. Besides, Pankaj Kumar Sreemanth and Hritvik Gnanoba secured 286th and 357th rank respectively in the Scheduled Tribes quota. The other students who performed well with impressive All India Ranks in the examination were Avinash Kurne (480), Siddalinga Rajkumar (1075), Nagaraj Rekunaik (1488), Sagar Vijay Kumar (2473), Bhagyashree Rajkumar (4708), Chamundeshwari Babshetty (4878), Prateek Rajkumar (9702), Krishna Shankar Rao (19160) and Prasanna Totayya (23551).

"I feel happy that the students of our college have secured good marks both in NEET and JEE. The achievement was possible because of the quality of education maintained in the institution and the hard work of both students and teachers," the founder-president of the institution Basavalinga Pattaddevaru said. He added that the very purpose of the institution was to extend support to bright students with economically weaker backgrounds and encourage them for pursuing higher education in the prestigious institutions like IIT.

Samiksha, the topper of the college, attributed her success to the quality of education imparted in the institution as well as her hard work. "I would like to get admission in Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai," she said.

Manual scavenging: firm booked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Commercial Street police on Friday booked Amrutha Constructions Pvt. Ltd., under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, for allegedly engaging a labourer to remove silt from a drain on Infantry Road .

The incident came to light when city-based advocate Vinay K. Sreenivasa, on his way to office, noticed the man getting into a drain to clean using a bucket. The victim was not given any safety gear and and was struggling to clear the blockage, he alleged.

The labourer told Mr. Srinivasa that he was asked to clean up the drain and remove silt by his employer, identified as Ravi, from Amrutha Constructions.

Mr. Srinivasa called Ravi, who admitted that he was getting the drain cleaned based on the job assigned to him by residents of Infantry Road. The police have summoned Ravi for questioning for further investigation.

FROM PAGE ONE

Bengaluru boy tops JEE (Advanced)

"Narayana Micro Schedule, the weekly and cumulative exams, the rectification of errors list and national-wide analysis made me understand the pros and cons in every subject, which helped me understand my position and worked on it continuously. As my goal was to achieve a seat in top-notch IITs, COVID-19 didn't affect me in any way. During the pandemic, I preferred self-study. In fact, it helped me to prepare well. IIT Bombay is the startup hub of India. I am interested to set up a startup and contribute to society," he added.

Vishal Bysani

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai lauded Shishir's achievement. In his tweet, he congratulated him, "Hearty congratulations to Shishir R.K, who got the first position in JEE (Advanced) examination and increased the fame of Karnataka. I wish you further success in the future."

Vishal, who was also the fifth topper in CET 2022 and second topper in COMED-K in the Engineering stream, said, "The habit of performing consistently every year was due to my mentors. They had unquestionable faith in me, my preparation instincts and approach towards studies. During this entire period of preparation, my parents and my teachers' unstinting support played a big role in my success."

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O&M Circle, Shakthi Soudha, Bondel, Mangaluru-575 015
Tel: 0824-2443549/2444915, CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

NO: SEE/MNG/EE(O)/AEE-2/2022-23/5001-002 DATE : 08.09.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)

Bid Enquiry No.: MESCOM/SEE/MNG/2022-23/1636/CALL 2

Tenders are invited from the eligible transformer repairers for carrying out repair and reconditioning to faulty distribution transformers under buy back basis at the premises of Divisional Store, Mangaluru Repair centre.

The detailed tender notification information can be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after 12.09.2022 Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele.), O&M Circle, Mangaluru

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/AEE-1/F-114/22-23/Cys-47 Date: 09.09.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Mode Only)

KPTCL invites e-tenders in the prescribed form from Reputed Man Power Agency for providing Man Power Services for carrying out shift operations & minor maintenance works for the following 66kv station in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere.

Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/30/07.09.2022. Name of the Station:** 66/11 KV Kyasinakere Station.

Tenders will be accepted through e-procurement Mode only. For further details, prospective Bidders are advised to log on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** & click on to hyperlink **e-Procurement-kptcl** to participate in e-procurement portal **on or after 12.09.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tr. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Near Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davangere. Ph: 08192-250774.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
Office of the Chief Engineer(WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.			
IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/DCE(WWM -E&W)/TA-2/111/2022-23			**Dt:09.09.2022**
1	Tender for the work of Providing and laying of 450mm dia & 300mm dia DI/MS pipeline in lieu of existing 300mm dia DI pipeline along NH44 to facilitate Metro Reach R6 Phase-II construction from K.R. Puram to KIAL under the head of DC work of M/s BMRCL.	Rs. 6,22,06,660/-	Rs. 9,33,000/-

Last date for receipt of tenders : **26.09.2022 upto 15.00 Hrs.** Tenders will be opened on: **28.09.2022 after 17.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(WWM-West)

Office of the Chief Engineer(South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.			
IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(M)-I/2180/2022-23			**Dt:09.09.2022**
2	Tender for the work of Providing and laying of 400 mm dia, 300mm dia, 150mm dia and 100mm dia DI Water supply pipelines in place of 400 mm dia, 250mm dia, 150mm dia and 100mm dia corroded CI line from Mysore Road Sirsi Cicle to Royan Circle Road for the purpose of concreting / white topping work to be taken by BBMP in Mysore Road coming under Chamarajapete Service Station of AEE(SW-2) Sub Division area pertaining to South-West-1 Division.	Rs. 1,87,30,365/- (Exclusive of GST)	Rs. 2,81,000/-

Last date for receipt of tenders : **26.09.2022 upto 15.00 Hrs.** Tenders will be opened on: **28.09.2022 after 16.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(South)

Office of the Chief Engineer(Project) 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.			
IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cstr&DCW)/655/2022-23			**Dt:09.09.2022**
3	Tender for the work of Providing Underground Drainage Facilities to Banashankari 6th Stage further Extension Area, BDA Layout, Bangalore.	Rs. 10,882.02 Lakhs	Rs. 108.82 Lakhs

Last date for receipt of tenders : **13.10.2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** Tenders will be opened on: **15.10.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(Project)

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/2161/2022-23

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Cumulative outflow from KRS, Kabini dams nearing 300 tmcft

Above normal rainfall during the current monsoon has resulted in heavy inflow to the reservoirs, as a result of which corresponding outflow is steady and high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The cumulative outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) and the Kabini reservoirs between June 1 and September 10 has been higher compared to the outflow in the same period during the last three years.

Above normal rainfall during the current monsoon season has resulted in heavy inflow to the reservoirs, as a result of which the corresponding outflow was also steady and high. Against Karnataka's obligation to release 177.25 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) to Tamil Nadu during a water year (June to May), the cumulative outflow from the two dams from June 1 to September 10 was 291 tmcft, according to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

A file photo of water being discharged from the Krishnaraja Sagar dam.

The outflow from the KRS on September 10 was at the rate of 20,913 cusecs and it was 15,550 cusecs from the Kabini. At this rate, the cumulative discharge since June is expected to cross the 300-tmcft mark within the next few days.

In contrast, the cumulative outflow from both the Kabini and the KRS dams from June to September 10 was 94 tmcft while it was 93 tmcft during the same period in 2020 and 146.37 tmcft in 2019.

But 2018 was an exceptional year and the cumulative outflow from both the dams between June 1 and September 10 was 348.95 tmcft owing to extreme rains and catastrophe in Kodagu from which the district was still recovering.

South-interior Karnataka region comprising 11 districts and parts of which constitute the Cauvery catchment has received more than twofold the normal rains this year. Against a normal rainfall of 269 mm, the belt has received 645 mm of rainfall between June 1 and September 11.

KARNATAKA STATE NATURAL DISASTER MONITORING CENTRE

The combined outflow so far is also higher than the quantum of discharge during the entire water year from June 2021 to May 2022. The total discharge was 237 tmcft in that period while it was 224 tmcft during June 2020 to May 2021 and 285.33 tmcft from June 2019 to May 2020, according to KSNDMC.

Also, the outflow so far from both the dams this year does not include the additional water accruing in the rivers due to heavy to very heavy rains in the downstream of KRS and Kabini which saw flooding in Arkavathi and its tributaries in Ramanagaram.

Besides, there were flash floods in the tail end regions of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Mandya districts as various rivulets and streams were also in spate all of which eventually join the Cauvery to flow into Stanley reservoir in Mettur.

South-interior Karnataka region comprising 11 districts and parts of which constitute the Cauvery catchment, has received more than twofold the normal rains this year. Against a normal rainfall of 269 mm, the belt has received 645 mm of rainfall between June 1 and September 11, according to KSNDMC.

Kodagu, the district from where the Cauvery originates, has received 2,291 mm of rainfall against a normal of 2,060 mm while Chikkamagaluru - from where the river Hemavathi originates and is major tributary of the Cauvery - has received 1,335 mm of rainfall against a normal of 1,653 mm all of which has contributed to increase in the cumulative outflow from the reservoirs.

Janaspandana was celebration of CM and a few leaders, not common man: Cong.

'BJP was adamant on conducting event despite rain woes and price rise issues'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after the Bharatiya Janata Party celebrated three years in office, the Opposition Congress taunted the BJP that the celebrations were not that of a common man even as it said that it was ready for discussion on any scam in the legislature session starting on Monday.

"Instead of speaking about the performance of the government, Janaspandana rally was used to criticise Congress. The BJP was adamant on conducting the programme despite rain-related woes in Bengaluru, price rise that has affected the common man and huge unemployment issues," former Minister and MLA Priyank Kharge told reporters here on Sunday.

"We see the celebrations as that of the Chief Minister and a few other Ministers and not of common man. There were hardly a few original BJP leaders. Senior leaders V. Somanna and K.S. Eshwarappa were not seen. Of the five CMs from BJP, only two were present. BJP national president J.P. Nadda and State in-charge Arun Singh were missing," he said.

Stating that the Chief Minister's claim on government's performance was bogus, he said: "Though the Chief Minister claimed that there were 20 lakh beneficiaries of Vidyanidhi scheme, in reality the government received not more than 10 lakh applications for the scheme. While the CM claimed to construct 150 SC and minorities hostel, he has allocated ₹259 crore for the purpose. Is it possible to construct 150 hostels with the allocation?"

Further, he pointed out that though the Chief Minister claimed that the State had created 50,000 jobs, Ministers representing departments of heavy industries, small industries and skill development had informed the Assembly that not a single job had been generated in two years.

The State is lagging in electrification of railway lines despite giving the highest number of MPs for BJP from South India. "I feel sad that the CM is telling lies to thousands. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not taught him (CM) development, he has taught him to peddle lies," Mr. Kharge said.

Daring the BJP to investigate the alleged scams during Congress regime, he said: "BJP leaders have threatened the Congress to expose alleged scams. Who has asked them not to investigate? Have Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar or the party officially stopped it? Whom are you threatening? All investigative agencies are in your hands."

He said the Congress was ready to discuss any scam in the legislature session starting on Monday. "If the BJP has guts, it should hand over PSI, KPTCL, and PWD recruitment scams, 40 % commission allegations of contractors and bitcoin scam to a judicial inquiry," he said.

Siddaramaiah seeks Bommai's apology

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday sought an apology from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for speaking lies about the death of IAS officer Anurag Tiwari. "It has been four years since the investigation leading to the death of Tiwari in Lucknow was given to CBI after Shobha Karandlaje spoke to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. There is no information on the investigation. Mr. Bommai should tell people the outcome of the investigation or offer apology," he said.

Regarding the Anna Bhagya scheme, the Leader of the Opposition sought to know from the Chief Minister why Karnataka spent ₹18,000 crore on Food and Civil Supplies Department between 2013 and 2018 if the Centre had funded Anna Bhagya scheme.

"The Chief Minister and other BJP leaders should stop telling lies in the future and speak of development if they have undertaken any. The Chief Minister and others who were competing to tell lies at Doddaballapura on Saturday should apologise," he said.

DKS: BJP is unnerved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KALABURAGI

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said that the BJP was panic-stricken by the success of the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra. "BJP has gone crazy after seeing the overwhelming response that people are showing for Bharat Jodo Yatra. They are panic-stricken by the 3,510-km yatra. The main purpose of the yatra is to unite people with diverse religious and cultural backgrounds under a single banner of nationalism. The objective of the yatra is diagonally opposite to that of BJP," Mr. Shivakumar told reporters.

Full of zest

A group of boys running as part of the 'Bale Gobbuga Kesardonji Dina' (come play, a day in a slush field) event at KVK in Mangaluru on Sunday. • H.S. MANJUNATH

JD(S) distances itself from BJP and Cong.

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

In what is being seen as a political signal coming ahead of the election to the Legislative Assembly next year, the Janata Dal (Secular) is displaying signs of distancing itself from both BJP and Congress to build itself a narrative nationally.

While the Congress has been terming the JD(S) as the B-team of saffron party since 2018, the meeting of former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy with Telengana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Sunday is being termed as a political move to be with secular forces. Last week, Mr. Kumaraswamy had met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar too. Incidentally, both Mr. Rao and Mr. Kumar are at work to build a political front to fight BJP in the 2024 general elections.

JD(S) sources said that Mr. Kumaraswamy's move to be aligning with secular forces is bound to send a positive signal to minorities whom the party believes deserted them in 2018 elections. Sources believe that aligning with secular forces will help the party in 2023 Assembly elections. "Mr. Kumaraswamy is also keen on building his image nationally since his father and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's health does not permit him to remain politically active. There was also pressure on Mr. Kumaraswamy to be active politically at the national level," say sources.

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy with Chief Minister of Telangana K. Chandrashekar Rao in Hyderabad on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Part of alternative front

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The JD(S) has vowed to be part of an alternative front to BJP and Congress that is being launched on Vijayadashami during Dasara by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who confabulated with Mr. Rao for nearly three hours in Hyderabad, is learnt to have extended support to the front that will work to maintain communal harmony. Both the leaders are learnt to have discussed political situation and general atmosphere in the country after BJP came to power. Mr. Kumaraswamy also met Telengana Urban Development and Municipal Administration Minister K.T. Rama Rao.

The meetings with Mr. Kumar and Mr. Rao will be followed by meetings with Kerala and Tamil Nadu Chief Ministers Pinarayi Vijayan and M.K. Stalin, respectively, sources said. "The regional parties have become cautious of the BJP's move to sabotage regional powers after gaining a foothold. While BJP succeeded breaking Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, the Janata Dal (United) came out of the coalition in Bihar to survive. BJP's attempts to destabilise AAP government in Delhi did not bear fruit," sources said, adding that Operation Kamala deployed by BJP to poach Opposition legislators was keenly discussed on Sunday.

The current political analysis is that the BJP's aggressive politics towards regional parties is bringing these parties together for survival. "The BJP had created a myth about the regional parties as *tukde* gang. However, developments in the recent months have brought together these parties," sources said. Mr. Rao-headed TRS has pledged its support for JD(S) in the ensuing elections to the Assembly.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Coming full circle?
Veteran politician A.H. Vishwanath (*in picture*) quit Congress in June 2017 to join the Janata Dal (Secular) before bidding adieu to the regional party two years later in 2019 and joining the Bharatiya Janata Party. But Mr. Vishwanath, who was part of the Congress for long years, is finding himself at odds with the saffron outfit on a number of issues even though he is a BJP MLC. Be it the revision of school textbooks, the 18th century Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan or the more recent controversy involving the seer of Sri Murugha Mutt of Chitradurga Shivamurthy Muruga Sharanaru, Mr. Vishwanath has broken ranks with his partymen and taken a stand that has clearly embarrassed the saffron party leadership and the BJP government in the State.
Interacting with reporters in Madikeri recently, Mr. Vishwanath said his "agenda" remains unchanged even though his "jhanda" (flag representing a party) has been changing. He said his agenda is to work for the people of the country, win their confidence on a secular basis, and work with the government.
When asked about his future course of politics, Mr. Vishwanath, who shared the dais with KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar in Hunsur recently, said there is nothing that is certain in politics, clearly not ruling out his return to the Congress if it is politically expedient.
"If there is pressure to go, we will go," he remarked.

Father and daughter
Former Minister and BJP MLA Aravind Limbavali (*in picture*) was caught on camera reprimanding a woman and getting her detained by the police for

asking him questions on allegations of land encroachment in Bengaluru and trying to hand over a petition. The incident took place when the MLA was on rounds to monitor water logging issues in Bengaluru.

The Opposition Congress hit out at the BJP government in the State over the video clip of the incident that went viral. The Congress leaders condemned Mr. Limbavali's behaviour, saying he is not eligible to be a legislator. Will the lawmaker stand up to the Narendra Modi-led government's slogan of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", asked the Congress.

In fact, this is not the first incident of alleged abuse of power from the VVIP family. Back in June, Mr. Limbavali's daughter was found furiously arguing with the police after she was caught for alleged rash driving, and overtaking a police vehicle, in Bengaluru. After a video of the incident went viral, Mr. Limbavali tendered an apology for his daughter's behaviour.

Anger over rules
The BJP leaders have rushed to condemn a statement by Alok Kumar (*in picture*), ADGP, that Ganesha mandals which want to keep images of national leaders or others would have to obtain the permission of the local self governments. It seems, however, that the opposition is based neither on logic nor law and the officer is being targeted for merely stating a legal provision.

"If any individual or organisation wants to place any image in a private place, then they are free to do so. But if they want to place images, posters or banners in public places, they have to obtain the permissions from the city corporation, municipality or the gram panchayat concerned. If that is not done, local police officers will ensure that the

organisers face legal action," the senior IPS officer told journalists during his visit to Belagavi. The officer said that this was as per law.

This earned the wrath of some BJP leaders. MLA Abhay Patil strongly condemned it. "We are not placing the pictures of Afzal Guru," he thundered, arguing that there was no need to seek anyone's permission to keep any image in the mandals. He asked his followers to place Hindutva icon V.D. Savarkar's images in every mandal. Anil Benake, MLA, argued that such rules were being thrust upon only Hindus.

LAIQH A. KHAN
NAGESH PRABHU
RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI

Nirani attends industry interaction meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Minister for Large and Medium Industries Murugesh R. Nirani participated in an industry interaction meeting along with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in San Francisco on Saturday evening. The interaction was organised by the Consulate General of India in San Francisco on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Global Investors Meet
In the run-up to the Global Investors Meet scheduled on November 2, 3 and 4, the Minister is leading a State delegation to the U.S. to attract investments.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

We deeply mourn the demise of our beloved mother

Mrs Sulochana Kunjithapadam 88 yrs
Who passed away peacefully on 08.09.2022 at 4.50 am.
Mr and Mrs Rajaram
Mr and Mrs Murali
Grandchildren & great grand children

In Memory of your loved ones
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Meeting in Kerala to discuss stray dog attacks

Animal birth control centres to be opened in 152 blocks, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Spiralling stray dog attacks and unsettling questions about the efficacy of locally administered anti-rabies vaccine have compelled the Kerala government to call an urgent meeting of top officials on Monday to devise measures to mitigate the alarming public issue.

State Local Self-Governments Minister M.B. Rajesh will chair the meeting. A 2001 law prevents the culling of stray dogs. Reviving the stagnant animal birth control programme (ABC) and inoculating stray dogs to reduce the rabies risk might be the limited options for the government.

Moreover, the government appeared acutely mindful of animal rights. It also wants to prevent any vigilante action against strays by angered residents.

The ominous death of four dog bite victims due to suspected vaccine failure is supposedly on the meeting's agenda. The casualties had impelled the Health Department to withdraw at least one batch of anti-rabies vaccine from circulation so far. It also prompted an internal audit of the effectiveness of the storage and cold-chain protocols protecting anti-rabies vaccines' potency. The meeting might also discuss the pros and cons of administering anti-rabies prophylactics to the vulnerable population, especially animal handlers.

Mr. Rajesh said in Kannur that a special drive to curb the stray dog attacks was in the offing. He did not reveal more details but said the government would enlist the help of local bodies, voluntary organisations, and animal rescue groups to help mitigate the issue.

Growing concern: Stray dogs occupying the main road at Palakkad town in Kerala on Sunday. •K.K. MUSTAFAH

Mr. Rajesh said the government would open ABC centres in 152 local body blocks to reduce the stray dog population incrementally. So far, the administration has equipped 30 such centres.

On Sunday at Attappady in Palakkad, stray dogs attacked a three-year-old tribal child on his face and limbs. Stray dogs attacked a senior citizen in Kannur. Victims of stray dog attacks seeking medical aid at hospitals are reportedly rising.

Tests confirm efficacy of anti- rabies vaccine

C. MAYA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

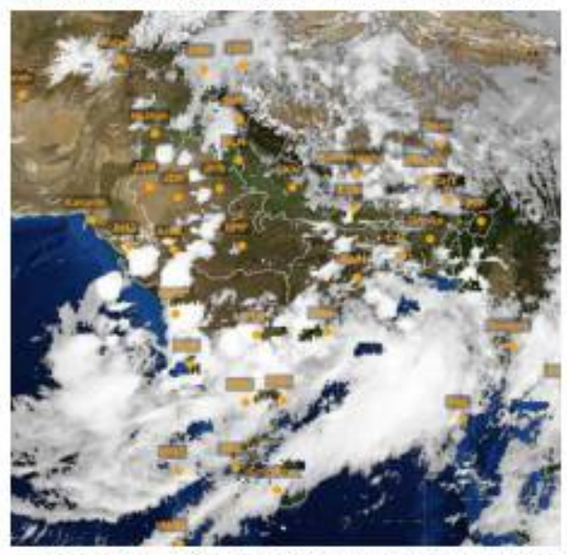
Even as the efficacy of the anti-rabies vaccine currently administered in Kerala has been called into question, the presence of virus neutralising antibodies detected in the ante-mortem samples of blood and cerebrospinal fluid collected from the 12-year-old who died of rabies in Pathanamthitta indicates that it has indeed been effective against rabies virus, public health experts point out.

They were tested at the National Institute of Virology, Pune. "The fact that virus neutralising antibodies were found in the serum and cerebrospinal fluid samples of the child indicates that the anti-rabies vaccine had begun to work. It is, highly likely that the concentration of antibodies was not sufficient to resist the virus because the virus had already found its way to the nerve fibres. It again points to the nature of the wound (deep lacerated wound near the eyes) and delays in wound management as the possible vulnerabilities which might have allowed the virus an early entry into the nerve fibres," a public health expert said.

If at all the efficacy of the biologicals is to be suspected, it is the efficacy of the immunoglobulin serum that should be confirmed, assuming that sufficient quantity of the serum was properly infiltrated into the wound.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over Gangetic West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Jharkhand, Odisha, Sikkim, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6.0	33.6	25.4	Kozhikode	4.0	29.4	25.8
Ahmedabad	3.0	38.0	25.5	Kurnool	46.0	31.4	23.7
Aizawl	38.0	–	20.5	Lucknow	–	35.0	27.6
Allahabad	–	37.3	26.1	Madurai	–	36.4	23.6
Bengaluru	0.8	26.7	20.5	Mangaluru	18.7	28.1	23.9
Bhopal	–	32.8	24.6	Mumbai	1.0	30.4	26.0
Bhubaneswar	29.0	31.7	25.0	Mysuru	24.0	30.6	20.0
Chandigarh	–	35.2	26.3	New Delhi	–	36.4	25.4
Chennai	–	32.6	27.5	Patna	10.0	35.0	26.2
Coimbatore	0.4	30.0	22.6	Port Blair	–	30.4	25.2
Dehradun	12.5	33.1	21.6	Puducherry	–	33.6	25.0
Gangtok	28.0	22.4	16.3	Pune	13.0	29.9	23.2
Goa	22.0	29.4	24.2	Raipur	6.0	31.6	25.0
Guwahati	–	35.3	26.2	Ranchi	2.0	31.3	22.9
Hubballi	–	25.0	22.0	Shillong	10.0	27.6	17.5
Hyderabad	12.0	24.5	21.5	Shimla	1.0	22.8	14.8
Imphal	–	29.2	20.4	Srinagar	29.0	30.2	16.1
Jaipur	–	34.6	27.1	Thiruvananthapuram	4.0	30.4	24.6
Kochi	–	29.0	26.0	Tiruchi	–	34.5	26.0
Kohima	1.0	25.4	19.4	Vijayawada	37.0	32.4	24.5
Kolkata	5.0	33.8	26.5	Visakhapatnam	5.0	30.8	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	61	58	.44	46	60	
Bengaluru	7	10	.21	46	55	
Chennai	6	21	.81	20	46	
Delhi	–	25	127	50	60	
Hyderabad	6	2	109	21	–	
Kolkata	3	–	12	11	25	
Lucknow	9	70	31	26	79	
Mumbai	5	71	115	12	10	
Pune	–	–	–	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	20	39	29	46	66	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kochi, Kerala recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 285 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Employees remain firm on old pension scheme in A.P.

P. SUJATHA VARMA
VIJAYAWADA

Unimpressed by the proposal of the "best pension plan" the government intends to put forth in the next three months, government employees' associations in Andhra Pradesh are trying to re-group and strengthen their position in the fight against implementation of the new pension scheme.

The government's repeated efforts to break the stalemate have not yielded the desired result with the employees' representatives making it clear that they will hold further discussions only if the talks focus on the restoration of the old scheme.

The government has been insisting that the choice be made between the contributory pension scheme and the guaranteed pension scheme, an upgraded form of the former with a few additional benefits.

In a counter to the government's contention that the old scheme is financially unviable, the associations cite the cases of the Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh governments that have reinstated it.

The employees maintain that the government's calculations are "unrealistic" and that the implementation of the OPS will not result in deduction of any money from the development expenditure of the State and welfare of its people.

Krishnam Raju passes away at 83

Former Union Minister had a long acting career in Telugu film world

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

U. Krishnam Raju, Telugu film star actor of the 1960s and 1970s and former Union Minister of State for Defence and External Affairs, died while undergoing treatment following a brief illness in a hospital at Gachibowli here on Sunday. Raju was 83 and is survived by his wife and three daughters.

Krishnam Raju was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1998 and again in 1999 on BJP ticket from the Kakinada and Narsapur constituencies. Raju was Union Minister of State for four years during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's last term as Prime Minister from 1999 to 2004.

U. Krishnam Raju

Raju quit the BJP to join the Praja Rajyam party floated by megastar Chiranjeevi in 2009. He contested the Rajahmundry Lok Sabha seat in the same year but lost. Krishnam Raju and Chiranjeevi hailed from the same village – Mogaltur – in West Godavari district.

In his film career spanning five-and-a-half decades during which he acted in 183 films, Krishnam Raju went by the name 'rebel star' due to his rebellious acting style. Raju started as a hero but switched to playing the role of villain. He made his debut with *Chilaka Gorinka* in 1966 but *Bhakta Kannappa* and *Bobbili Brahmanna* brought him fame.

Raju won five Filmfare awards and three Nandi awards from the Andhra Pradesh State government. Krishnam Raju's journey in films ran parallel to that of greats in the industry at that time, including N.T. Rama Rao, Akkineni Nageswara Rao and Krishna. *Baahubali* star Prabhas is the son of his younger brother Suryanarayana Raju.

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, expressing his condolences, said Raju won hearts of movie goers as a rebel star with a unique acting style.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, said the demise of Raju is a huge loss to the cinema industry and people of both the Telugu States.

BJP State president Bandi Sanjay Kumar visited the house of Raju. "Mr. Raju stood for what he was committed to. He had joined the BJP with affection on Atal Bihari Vajpayee," he said.

Tension as one more VRA commits suicide in Hyderabad

Several VRAs in solidarity plan protest, prevented and detained by police

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Another village revenue assistant (VRA) committed suicide, less than a week after a member of the same section ended his life. The VRAs are on strike for the last 49 days demanding pay scales and job security.

In the latest incident, K. Venkateshwarlu of Utlapally of Miryalaguda in Nalgonda district hanged himself due to financial distress. His death resulted in VRAs' body giving a call for protest and show of solidarity.

The VRAs' joint action committee, which earlier stated that the government's delay in payments and unaddressed demands pushed Venkateshwarlu into depression and drove him to suicide, had planned to assemble in large numbers.

However, Nalgonda police, which sensed law and order issues took preventive measures and thwarted a major gathering in and around the village limits. A large police force was on duty and several picket points were set up to prevent assembly of people. According to family members, Venkateshwarlu was suffering from a kidney ailment and had been working as a temporary driver to make ends meet, even as protests by the VRA body continued. Reportedly, he had been depressed, and when no one was at home, around Saturday noon he allegedly hanged himself. The news of his death spread fast among revenue employees, locals and relatives and protests were organised demanding government action. Miryalaguda MLA N. Bhaskar Rao who reached the victim's house to condole the family on Saturday evening, had a bitter experience as protesters took to sloganeering and prevented him. They said the government had been following a 'wait and watch ' approach even as protests have been on for the past two months and so far, 28 VRAs have ended lives in the State.

> **Venkateshwarlu was suffering from a kidney ailment and had been working as a temporary driver to make ends meet**
> FAMILY MEMBERS

(Roshni - suicide prevention helpline: +914066202000).

Aranmula boat race enthrals crowd

As many as 49 snake boats participated in the regatta, a mix of revelry and ritual

STAFF REPORTER
PATHANAMTHITTA

The rhyme and rhythm of traditional Vanchipattu (boat song) reverberated across the banks of the Pampa as the palliyodams (snake boats) blazed past the placid tracks on the Pampa during the annual Uthrittathi boat race in Aranmula in the district on Sunday.

As many as 49 snake boats participated in the regatta, which was held in two batches. The event began with a ceremonial procession of snake boats in the afternoon. People thronged both sides of the river to catch a glimpse of the decked-up boats blazing past on the Pampa.

Earlier, Swami Nirvinnananda Maharaj lit the lamp to mark the beginning of event. Pathanamathitta MP Anto Antony flagged off a colourful procession of the participating boats, while former Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajashekharan flagged off the race events. District panchayat president Omallur Shankaran felicitated the veteran boat song artists. Mallappuzhassery and Edappavoor boats lifted the Mannam Trophy in the race for A and B batches.

Ritualistic tradition: Cultural feast conducted as part of the annual Uthrittathi boat race in Pathanamthitta, Kerala on Sunday. •LEJU KAMAL

Kuriyannur won the second prize in the 'A' batch category while Pulloppram finished runner-up in the 'B' batch race. The regatta, which marks the anniversary of the idol installation at the Sree Parthasarathy temple, is staged as a mix of revelry and ritualistic tradition.

The oarsmen are selected from the village which owns the respective vessel.

Police wait for Navy to hand over gun

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The police team that is probing the case in which a fisherman on a trawler was hit by a stray bullet off INS Dronacharya, Fort Kochi on Wednesday, is waiting for the Navy to hand over all documents and the gun from which the bullet is suspected to have been fired, it is learnt.

The police had examined the naval facility and seized a few documents on Saturday, after fishermen accused the Navy of having fired the bullet as part of firing practice.

The Navy had denied the charge, saying that the bullet was not of the kind they used. Whether the bullet that hit the fisherman was indeed fired from the naval facility can be ascertained based on the ballistics expert's report.

Senior scribe arrested in Kallakurichi, freed on bail

Police book him for incitement to riots, promoting enmity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KALLAKURICHI

The Kallakurichi cybercrime police on Sunday arrested senior journalist Savithri Kannan at his Chennai residence after the publication of an article on the death of a Class XII girl student of a school at Kaniyamoor on July 13.

Mr. Kannan, Editor of Aram Online, had penned an article questioning the claim that the handwriting in a "suicide note" was that of the girl, in the backdrop of the Forensic Department having submitted its findings to the Madras High Court only recently.

Police sources said Mr. Kannan, who had previously worked for a Tamil fortnightly and a leading Tamil television news channel, was booked Sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot); 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc); 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace); and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. Kannan was released on station bail after a few hours of questioning at the Olakkur station in Villupuram district. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kannan said a six-member team, claiming to be from the Kallakurichi cybercrime police, landed at his house around 11.00 a.m. "They forcibly took me away in the presence of my family members, though I was ready to cooperate with the investigation. Though the police personnel claimed they were taking me to Kallakurichi for interrogation, they took me to the Olakkur station instead," he said. Leaders of political parties, organisations such as the State Platform for Common School System (TN) and journalists bodies condemned his arrest.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050.)

4th phase of Bandi's yatra starts today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The fourth phase of BJP State president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's Praja Sangrama Yatra would start from Ramleela Grounds at Quthbullapur on Monday and conclude on September 22.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar would address a public meeting at Ramleela Grounds on Monday. BJP national general secretary Sunil Bansal will be the chief guest.

The padayatra will begin at 10.30 a.m. at Chittaramma temple, where Mr. Sanjay Kumar would offer special prayers. He would cover Quthbullapur, Kukatpally, Secunderabad Cantonment, Malkajgiri, Medchal, Uppal, L.B. Nagar and Ibrahimpatnam Assembly segments.

Activist, who fought against illegal quarries, run over by truck in Karur

Quarry owner, truck driver and another person arrested on murder charge

C. JAISANKAR
KARUR

An activist, who had been demanding the closure of illegal stone quarries, was allegedly run over by a truck belonging to a quarry, at Kuppam near K. Paramathi in Karur district on Saturday evening.

The incident occurred a day after a quarry situated near Kalipalayam, where activist R. Jaganathan lived, was closed by the Department of Geology and Mining on complaints that it was being operated illegally.

K. Paramathi

According to local sources, a truck reportedly belonging to the Annai Stone Quarry knocked down Jaganathan when he was riding a two-wheeler. After confirming that he was dead, the occupants of the truck appeared to have enacted a farce by alerting an ambulance service to conjure up a semblance of a road accident. Jaganathan was declared brought dead at the Government Medical College Hospital. As information spread, a group of social activists, led by R. S. Mugilan, convener of the Tamil Nadu Environment Protection Movement, and the victim's relatives and friends gathered in front of the hospital and staged a dharna. Alleging that Jaganathan was murdered for fighting to close the Annai quarry, they demanded a detailed investigation into the death. Revathy, wife of Jaganathan, said her husband was brutally murdered for exposing the illegal operation of the quarry and refused to accept the body on Sunday until all the accused persons were arrested. Later in the day, the police arrested S. Selvakumar, 39, the quarry owner; Sakthivel, 24, the lorry driver; and Ranjith Kumar, 40, of Rayavelur, on the charge of murdering Jaganathan. Incidentally, in 2019, Jaganathan had a narrow escape when a group of persons attacked him with lethal weapons for opposing the functioning of the quarry. Selvakumar and Ranjith Kumar were citied as accused in that case too.

E. Sundaravathanam, Superintendent of Police, Karur, told *The Hindu* that according to preliminary inquiries, there was a *prima facie* indication that Jaganathan had been murdered for filing a complaint against a stone quarry.

Relief, at last

The Supreme Court has exposed the tenuous nature of UAPA case against journalist Kappan

Even for a system in which foisting of false cases is not uncommon, the prolonged imprisonment of journalist Siddique Kappan in Uttar Pradesh was quite an egregiously malevolent instance. In directing his release on bail, subject to conditions that are not onerous, the Supreme Court has rightly bypassed the bail-denying feature of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act by posing pertinent questions and concluding that there was no reason for keeping him in custody any further. Mr. Kappan was arrested in October 2020 while he was on his way to Hathras, where a Dalit girl had been gang-raped and murdered. In a baffling move that could only be explained as an attempt to divert attention from the public outcry caused by the incident and float a conspiracy theory with communal overtones, he was charged with plotting a divisive campaign in the area. And to ensure that he was kept in prison for a long time, the police invoked provisions of the anti-terror law – ones that related to raising funds for a terrorist act and a conspiracy to commit it – besides penal provisions concerning promoting enmity between communities and outraging religious feelings. He was described as a member of the Popular Front of India. Pamphlets calling for justice for the victim and literature in English (which turned out to be instructions given in English for use in the 'Black Lives Matter' protests in the United States), were cited as material to implicate him.

It is to the credit of the Bench under the Chief Justice of India, Justice U.U. Lalit, that it did not go by the usual penchant for citing Section 43D(5) of the UAPA to deny bail. The provision contains a legal bar on granting bail if the Court is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the accusation against those held is *prima facie* true. A 2019 judgment forbids a detailed analysis of the evidence at the bail stage. However, a common-sense approach to the facts of a case may lead to a better appreciation of the question of bail. By orally asking how raising one's voice in support of justice for a victim would amount to a crime and wondering why a person planning to foment communal violence would use pamphlets in English written for a protest in another country, the Bench proved the shaky foundations of the whole case. The bail order demonstrates how a clear-headed approach can help judges relieve officials and political leaders of their smug belief that by invoking anti-terror laws, they can keep disfavoured accused in prison for long years without any basis. At the same time, it reflects poorly on the judiciary that it took two years for the courts to grant liberty to Siddique Kappan. One should hope that this order will send a message down the judicial hierarchy on how courts should not allow the police to persecute people through stringent laws.

Nose dose

The nasal vaccine against COVID-19 should help in quicker coverage of the population

The history of the pandemic has been punctuated periodically by incremental developments in science and medicine. Funding, industry, and research were ploughed into laboratories with the hope that their petri dishes would yield solutions to save lives and retard the march of the virus. While many vaccines have provided that assurance of life, prevented hospitalisation and also reduced the severity of disease, it is only a nasal vaccine that carries within it the promise of preventing further transmission by countering it at the site of viral entry into the body. In that sense, the announcement that a nasal vaccine had been given emergency use authorisation for use as primary immunisation to the 18-plus age group is welcome. A nasal vaccine, if effective, is probably the most advanced tool to handle COVID-19 as of now, and by virtue of being a spritz in the nose or mouth, will be preferable to painful jabs, particularly with children or adults with trypanophobia that might have come in the way of their getting the vaccines. While in theory the nasal vaccine ensures that the virus is stopped from binding with host cells at the very point of entry into the human body, there is very little evidence of that working in a COVID-19 scenario among humans. While an influenza nasal vaccine has reportedly worked, three other nasal vaccines have been approved for use elsewhere in the world, but very little data is available from that. In the trials conducted by the Bharat Biotech for the nasal vaccine, developed in association with the University of Washington, "the reactogenic events and adverse events that were documented during the trial were highly comparable to the published data from other COVID-19 vaccines". The company reportedly conducted a phase 3 trial with about 3,100 unvaccinated people who received two doses of the nasal vaccine, and a booster trial with about 875 people who received a single dose of the nasal vaccine as a heterogeneous booster. The company has also promised that it would publish the data from the trials soon in the public realm.

While the fall in cases has allowed the world to take its foot off the pedal, efforts against the disease will have to be pursued. But this drop in numbers does afford a certain pause in pace: the results of the trials and data must now be allowed to enter the public realm even as emergency use authorisation is being processed for use of drugs or vaccines in the community. The Government too must factor this in its agenda, emphasising the promotion of transparency, now and in the future, even as it ensures continuing commitment of various departments involved in battling all aspects of the virus. In addition, delivering the vaccines to the general public and covering those untouched by the primary two doses, and the boosters, should remain high on the agenda.

This was Chile's 'disaster in the making'

There are lessons from the Chilean constitutional fiasco, and wiser counsel must prevail the second time around

JORGE HEINE

The overwhelming rejection of a new constitutional text by Chile's electorate (over 60% voted against it) has made worldwide headlines. International public opinion is baffled. The Chilean constitutional process has been followed with great interest around the world. Although there were many protests in 2018 and 2019, both in Latin America and elsewhere, the only case in which these protests led to an institutionalised process to renew the country's social contract was Chile.

A difficult phase

This meant that, after the violent, unprecedented uprising that took place on October 18, 2019, that led to the burning of churches, looting of supermarkets and the destruction of 118 subway stations, a national agreement was signed by most political parties on November 15 of that year. This included a timeline on the way forward to a new Constitution to replace the one inherited from General Augusto Pinochet, a charter which, after 40 years, continues to rule Chile.

This timeline included a plebiscite on whether to draft a new Constitution, and by whom; an elected Constitutional Convention (a first in Chilean history) that met for a year to do so; and a final plebiscite (on September 4) to ratify the new text. This period overlapped with the COVID-19 pandemic, which wrought havoc with the established schedule; a sharp recession; and a slew of additional municipal, regional, congressional and presidential elections. At the elections held in May 2021, there were 15,000 candidates on various ballots, in a country of 19 million people.

Under these circumstances, the very fact that the Constitutional Convention managed to deliver a text within the established deadline, was a bit of a miracle. The fact that its delegates were elected on the basis of gender parity, and that there was a quota of 17 delegates for Chile's long-ignored indigenous peoples (the 1980 Constitution does not even mention them, though they form 13% of Chile's population, and two-thirds of Chileans are of mixed European-aboriginal descent), also marked a first. Chile is a highly conservative, patriarchal society that has for long ignored its indigenous roots.

The outcomes

Yet, why was the new text rejected?

And Chile is very much an outlier in this. In the past two centuries, 94% of all new constitutional texts submitted to the electorate have been approved. Also, in Chile, four out of five voters in 2020 supported a new fundamental charter. With Chile's long-standing democratic institutions and civic traditions, it would surely manage this easily, and deliver a text that rose to the occasion, right? Wrong.

And the reasons for this, and for why the country is now forced to go back to the drawing board, have as much to do with form as with substance, with processes, as with outcomes.

In the October 2020 plebiscite, voters were asked to choose between a fully elected Constitutional Convention, and one where half the members would be elected, and the other half made up of

AFP

MPs. Much as the electorate on that occasion voted overwhelmingly (80%) in favour of a new Constitution, it was also endorsed by almost the same majority, having a full, newly elected body to draft it. And this is how Constitutional Assemblies are supposed to work. The era of a small group of unelected white men in smoke-filled rooms writing made-to-measure charters for the government of the day (which is how Chile's 1980 Constitution was written over seven years) is past.

And then, a critical turning point was reached. When the time came to choose a formula to elect the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, Chile's Congress did so along the lines of Congressional districts (thus the 155 delegates, which is the number of MPs in Chile's Chamber of Deputies). Independents cried out, arguing that they would be at a disadvantage *vis-à-vis* candidates of political parties. Traditionally, independents have been accommodated in various ways, including allowing them to run as part of a political party.

This time, however, the Chilean Congress, giving in to what it took to be the *esprit du temps*, made a cardinal mistake. In setting the election rules for the Constitutional Convention, it allowed independent candidates to form party lists (the ultimate oxymoron), and run under their banner. A motley crowd thus gathered under lists with picturesque names such as the "People's List" and the "Non-Neutral Independents".

At a time when popular support for political institutions in general and political parties in particular were at an all-time low, these lists won many votes, while political parties did not do so well. Christian Democrats, who have had three Presidents in Chilean history, famously elected only one delegate.

The net result of this misguided feat of electoral engineering was that the motley crowds that formed the lists of independents, plus other Left delegates, won a two-thirds majority in the Convention. This allowed them to elect the chair, to ignore the right-wing delegates and whatever they proposed, and otherwise engage in the sort of shenanigans individuals not accountable to anybody are bound to. One of them videotaped himself, while voting remotely, from the shower; another, who was almost elected as chair of the Convention, faked a non-existent cancer, which he parlayed not only to get votes but also to raise funds. Identity politics and victimhood took centre stage, while narcissism ran amok.

The first three or four months of the convention were wasted in endless deliberations about the fate of the "political prisoners" (those in prison as a result of crimes committed during the social uprising) and in extended exchanges on the Convention's internal procedures. The media, never very fond of the whole exercise in the first place, had a feast. Amazingly, the Convention initially decided not to invite four of Chile's former Presidents to the closing ceremony. Although the Convention began with high approval ratings, by the time it was done, public opinion had turned against it.

Once the seven specialised committees began their work, time was short, and the text ended up being more an exercise in hopeful wishing than anything else. The abolition of Chile's two-centuries old Senate, the weakening of the judiciary, and the establishment of a powerful "Congress of Deputies", seemingly designed *ex profeso* to clash with the Executive, are part and parcel of an odd smorgasbord of offerings that betray little understanding of how political systems work.

Faultlines

Yes, the 388-article, somewhat repetitive, text of the new Constitution, that would have been one of the longest in the world, left much to be desired. The shift from totally ignoring Chile's aboriginal peoples, to proclaiming the country to be a "plurinational state" with separate judicial systems, was too much of a good thing. Ignoring the proposals of the Right, and not aiming for a charter that represents all Chileans was a cardinal sin.

But the key lesson of the Chilean constitutional fiasco is a different one. Good intentions are fine and well, but procedures and professionalism matter. In fact, it may make the difference between failure and success. In twisting rules designed for political parties in order to favour independents who are accountable to no one, the Chilean Congress opened the door for the 'disaster in the making' that was Chile's Constitutional Convention. Let us hope that the second time around wiser counsel prevails.

Jorge Heine is a research professor at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, a Wilson Center global fellow, and a former Ambassador of Chile to India

India-Bangladesh ties, a model for bilateral cooperation

The contributions of the Sheikh Hasina government to nurturing the special 'bonding' need to be acknowledged

RAJIV BHATIA

The state visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, to India (September 5-8) has amply showcased the high stakes of both polities in their bilateral ties, imbued with regional significance. Delhi and Dhaka are fully conscious that they must get this vital equation right, constantly strengthening and deepening their cooperation and countering the challenges they face. Only then can this relationship be convincingly projected as a major success for their foreign policies. Even before reaching New Delhi, Ms. Hasina underlined the importance of the special "bonding" between the two nations, where one helped in the liberation of the other, and where both have worked together closely, especially since Ms. Hasina came to power again in 2009.

Dhaka's expectations

In one of her most candid interviews given just prior to her visit, Ms. Hasina vividly recalled how India had helped her all the way when she faced the greatest personal tragedy of her life: the assassination of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and a number of other members of her family. It was a national catastrophe. The shelter, security and support extended by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and subsequent governments shaped Ms. Hasina's worldview and her perception of India. As Prime Minister, she reciprocated the gestures adequately by taking firm action against anti-Indian insurgent groups soon after assuming power. Since then, the two governments have successfully resolved several old problems such as the exchange of conclaves and the conclusion of long-pending land and maritime boundary agreements. But other challenges remain.

Four specific issues seem to trouble the Bangladeshi side. First, the continued presence of 1.1 million Rohingyas who fled from Myanmar in 2017 has created enormous pressure on the economy and social harmony. Ms. Hasina has said India is a big country that should "accommodate" them. Further, she wants stronger support from India to facilitate their early return to Myanmar. Second, the absence of agreement on sharing of the Teesta's waters, pending since 2011 due to West Bengal's refusal to relent, and the broader issue of joint management of 54 common rivers, have been constant grievances. Third, India's sensitivity to growing cooperation between Dhaka and Beijing rankles the authorities in Bangladesh. Ms. Hasina has stressed the point that if there were differences between India and China, she did not wish to "put her nose to it".

Four, she has conceded that despite her government's secular policy, "incidents" against the Hindu minority have occurred, but her government has acted against miscreants. At the same time, she has expressed concern about the safety of minorities in India, pointing out that "it is not only (in) Bangladesh, even in India also sometimes minorities suffered".

The context above helps to evaluate the outcome of Ms. Hasina's latest India visit. She last visited India in 2019. She played host to the Prime Minister and the President of India, when they visited Bangla-

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desh in March and December 2021, respectively. The visits marked triple epochal celebrations: the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of Nation; the golden jubilee of Independence; and 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh. These visits were utilised to reach new agreements and add further content and momentum to the relationship. India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar tweeted, "The warmth and frequency of our leadership level contacts is a testimony to our close neighbo[u]rly partnership." This process has continued unhindered. The latest visit resulted in seven agreements designed to increase cooperation in the diverse domains of water sharing, railways, science and technology, space, media and capacity building.

Specific outcomes

Indian officials identified several specific outcomes of Ms. Hasina's discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. First, there was the agreement "to continue close security cooperation" over counter-terrorism, border crimes, and border management. Second, the two sides recommitted themselves to enhancing their development partnership which is already quite extensive and multi-faceted. Third, they agreed "to build resilient supply chains" between the two countries and "across the region". A significant decision was to launch the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2022 and to conclude negotiations by the time Bangladesh graduates from least developed country status in 2026. Finally, the leaders favoured expanding connectivity through more rail, road, inland waterways, and coastal shipping linkages. They agreed to build on the impressive successes achieved in the past decade in this sphere.

Economic relations have been developing excellently. Bilateral trade has touched a high watermark of $18 billion. Logistics for power trade between Bangladesh and its neighbours – India, Nepal and Bhutan – have been put in place. India will assist Bangladesh by sharing its rich experience of innovation through startups.

About the issues flagged by Ms. Hasina, has there been progress? On the displaced people from the Rakhine state (the word 'Rohingya' was not used in deference to Myanmar's sensitivity), India expressed appreciation for Bangladesh's "generosity" in sheltering them, made an assurance of more material assistance, and reiterated its previous position to support their "safe, sustainable and expeditious return". India is unable to do more. As expected, there was no resolution of the Teesta question, but in a significant forward movement, the two governments agreed on the sharing of the waters of the Kushiyara, the common border river. They also agreed to exchange data on other rivers, set up their priorities and begin formulating the framework for "the interim water sharing arrangements".

The thrust of the discussion on China-related issues, if it took place at all, is not known. When pressed by the media, India's Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra observed that the strategic priorities, interests, and concerns have all been "factored in our cooperative matrix of engagement", stressing that this bilateral relationship stands "on its own merits". The question of the safety of minorities did not find a place in the joint statement, but Dhaka routinely reiterates its commitment to protecting the Hindus in Bangladesh.

Sobering ground realities

In India, there are continuing worries about the cumulative and adverse impact of COVID-19 and the Ukraine war on Bangladesh's economy. The country faces escalating protests on the streets that have been triggered by a sharp rise in fuel prices, an erosion of foreign currency reserves, and a deepening financial crisis. Besides, the rising influence of fundamentalist forces, extremism, and radicalisation poses a serious danger to political stability. Thus, the contours of combined challenges before the Sheikh Hasina government as it faces parliamentary elections in 2023 become clear.

It is for Bangladesh citizens to elect their next government, but they should know that the contribution of Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League government to building a strong relationship with their largest neighbour is enormous and widely appreciated in India. Their leaders have jointly crafted and nurtured "a role model for bilateral and regional cooperation". It deserves to be protected and strengthened, whatever the future may hold.

Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House. A former Ambassador, he writes regularly on developments in South Asia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Congress polls

The fact that the Congress will now make available the list of all 9,000-plus delegates in connection with the Congress presidential election procedure – after much demand by some of its MPs – in the name of 'transparency' does not seem to lend any credence still to the party's earlier claim that it will hold elections in a free and fair manner (Page 1, September 11). The development only exposes the fact that there are still many in the party who would like the entire election process to be some sort of a 'mystery'.

PRABHU RAJ R.,
Bengaluru

Long march, long road

If the Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' is to be a success, it needs to adopt Gandhian methods to interact with India's teeming masses, listen to them, gauge their moods and also communicate the party's programmes to them. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should convey to them how his party could improve their lot and also strengthen India's age-old composite culture.

Since the largely pro-establishment media, particularly its electronic avatar, is likely to show the *yatra* in a bad light, Mr. Gandhi should tap the party's publicity department to make sure that the message of the *yatra* reaches those sitting on the fence. The long march could also be an opportunity for him to free himself from the coterie and reconnect with grass-root party workers who should be enthused to ensure better prospects for the party in 2024.

SAMIUL HASSAN QUADRI,
Bikaner, Rajasthan

Queen Elizabeth II

While most of us who were born in independent India have had the opportunity to learn about the reigns of the rulers of yesteryears only from history books, that we have experienced the Elizabethan age and the greatness of the monarch is thought-provoking. The Queen has given many of us a different perspective. If many in the world are in mourning, it is also a reflection of the manner in which the monarch conducted herself. The Queen's visit to Madras, in 1961, brings back many memories for some of us.

DHANAPALAN FERNANDO,
Chennai

■ Queen Elizabeth II scripted a royal epic that has straddled many a fascinating phase over seven decades of modern history. She assumed office past the decade when the mighty British empire stood downsized to an island kingdom and a world war that compelled not only the U.K. but also every other nation to rebuild fractured economies. In fact she did preside over two full 30 year economic cycles ending with Brexit, COVID-19 and Ukraine. Her capable and long run in office would support the concept of long-term tenures for sovereign Heads of state.

R. NARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

We need civil society engagement in Kashmir

This alone can create confidence, restore trust and strengthen inter-community bonds

SUSHOBHA BARVE

Kashmiri Pandits protest against killings in Budgam district. • NISSAR AHMAD

Over the last six months, the targeting of Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindus in the Valley by militants has once again brought forward the question of their right of return as well as the safety of minorities living in the Valley.

After the Pandit exodus from the Valley in the 1990s, the first few years of this century saw government efforts to send Pandits back to the Valley. The United Progressive Alliance, under the Prime Minister's return and rehabilitation of Kashmir migrants scheme, created government postings in the Valley for Kashmiri Pandit "migrant" youth. Mostly teachers, these government employees have lived in protected high-security enclaves, but their work requires them to leave these enclaves and mingle with the rest of the population. This had posed no threat to their lives until last October. Another segment, known as "non-migrant" Pandits because they never left the Valley, has lived in their own homes, without state-provided protection. Both sections feel vulnerable now due to the new incidents of violence against members of the community. The threat of a second exodus of the Pandit community has loomed on the horizon since last October. When, and in what circumstances, can Kashmiri Pandits expect to return and live without fear, without barbed wire walls, alongside Kashmiri Muslim neighbours? Can the pain and bitterness between the two communities ever be healed, trust restored, and the relationship between the Pandit and Muslim communities be rebuilt?

The importance of dialogue

In two decades of working in Jammu and Kashmir as a member of the Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation (CDR), I have learned that there is no top-down solution to the complex question of return. The government can enable it, but individuals and civil society will need to create conditions on the ground. They will have to encourage people to give up the blame game. Individuals or communities will have to search their hearts for where they have wronged the other, and build courage to acknowledge mistakes and restore trust.

Based on this, CDR supported the initiative for a dialogue proposed by two prominent young Kashmiris – one a Muslim and the other a Pandit – who had decided not to join the 1990s exodus. Both men had lived in Kashmir through the violence of the 1990s and the subsequent decades. Their sharply different perspectives on the incidents of that decade could have ended their initial conversation. But they decided to listen and talk to each other. Their conversations led them to persuade their larger communities that talking could lead to healing. It led to CDR's 'Shared Witness', a Pandit-Muslim dialogue series, in December 2010.

Public intellectuals and other influential persons from both communities were participants. The dialogue series coincided with the launching of the Prime Minister's job scheme. These dialogues created a social environment that enabled Kashmiri Pandits to take up government postings in the Valley. They focused on the events in and around 1990, and the incidents that triggered the displacement of the Pandit community. The conversations were difficult and emotional. Yet, no one left the table.

By the third dialogue, participants were sharing individual experiences that did not fit into the narrative that each community had built about the other. In that room, good and bad personal experiences were shared and tears shed – the lived reality of what happened in the early 1990s. There are similar stories of Partition – stories of cruelty and killings of thousands, but also stories of individuals and families who helped, rescued and protected people.

The conversations dived into the heart of communal differences. Participants pointed out that interdependence was not peculiar to Kashmir and was grounded in wider cultures; myths should not be created about an imagined past of communal "togetherness"; and relations between Pandits and Muslims in Kashmir could be described as "living together but separate". Was religion the primary basis for the separateness? And were class and power centrally imbedded in the relationship between the two communities? The word 'hatred' was used repeatedly. What then could be the "minimum principles of engagement" towards reconciliation?

The issue of apology

The Muslim participants felt the Pandits were in denial of the struggle of the Muslims in the Valley, who were facing violence from the system. The Kashmiri Muslim was always portrayed as being misguided, aided and abetted by Pakistan. The protest in Kashmir was not against religion, but against structures of power and oppression. Pandits were aggrieved that the Muslims did not protest the Pandit killings, not even when the killers claimed them. That greater responsibility lay with the Muslims as they were the majority.

The issue of "apology" was also discussed. One Kashmiri Muslim said the violence perpetrated on Pandits was committed by people not chosen by him to represent the Kashmiri cause. Why should he apologise for the crimes of others? Other Muslim participants jumped in to say an apology was appropriate to acknowledge the failure of civil society to avert the exodus of the Pandits from the Valley. This failure was one of the most difficult conversations in the dialogue. And this question remains most relevant to the situation of Kashmir in 2022. One Muslim participant forcefully said civil society had failed then, acknowledged his personal failure in the matter, and said Kashmiris had to pay a heavy price for this subsequently. If some social organisations had acted quickly, the exodus could have been stopped. He also reassured the Pandits that they were not alone anymore. This had the effect of changing the atmosphere in the room immediately.

A respected Kashmiri Pandit public intellectual observed that the Pandit community too had suffered from a lack of leadership. At the time, senior political and intellectual figures in the community should have met and taken stock of the situation, and reached out to leading figures in the Muslim community. If this had happened, the exodus could have been prevented. Second, even after migration, a good leadership might have prevailed upon members of the community not to sell their properties in the Valley in a hurry.

The Pandits asked the Muslims, what kind of freedoms do you want? Which freedoms do you not have under the existing system? But they also acknowledged the need to understand why Kashmiri Muslims had these demands. There was a strong demand for cultural, economic, political safeguards for the Pandits' return. They discussed the possibility of setting up a 'Truth Commission'.

The reason I am writing about this dialogue so many years later is to show that attempts at healing were made during the past decade and can be made. Unfortunately, some of the gains have now been lost. We need an urgent civil society engagement between communities in Kashmir once again. This alone can create confidence, restore trust and strengthen inter-community bonds. It could also enable Pandits to fulfil the long-cherished dream of return – in peace and with dignity.

Sushobha Barve is Executive Secretary of the Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation, Coordinator for the Concerned Citizens Group and has worked in J&K over two decades

The crisis of apple farmers

The increasing cost of production and the increase in GST on cartons has triggered protests in Himachal Pradesh

TIKENDER SINGH PANWAR

Apple growers in Himachal Pradesh are out on the streets some three decades after their last big agitation. The protests are not surprising; their anger has been simmering for a while.

To understand the present crisis, it is crucial to understand the developments of the last few decades. In the 1970s and 1980s, the state provided a lot of support to apple production in Himachal Pradesh: it set up nurseries and gave plants to farmers on a large-scale, offered a transport subsidy on cartons, provided heavy concession on tools, and offered special monetary help for the poor and Dalits to plant apple orchards, among other initiatives. Land reforms were widely implemented since the inception of the State; hardly anyone was left landless. Even before statehood was granted, land was distributed through Nau Taur (breaking new land). Any land tilled was eventually transferred to those tilling them, through successive land settlements. Laws in the State restrict the transfer of land in favour of a person who is not an agriculturist of Himachal Pradesh. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, peasant movements were successful in raising the support prices for apple. However, in the 1990s, with rising fragmentation of land, low productivity and withdrawal of state support, agriculture became unsustainable. The cost of production of agricultural items increased substantially, denying remunerative prices to the poor and marginal growers.

Reasons for crisis

There are two major reasons for the current crisis. The first is the increasing cost of production. The input cost of fertilizers, insecticides, and fungicides has risen in the last decade by 300%, as per some estimates. The cost of apple cartons and trays and packaging has also seen a dramatic rise. In the last decade, the cost of a carton, for instance, has risen from about ₹30 to ₹130. The cost borne to market the produce has also risen.

The second and immediate trigger for the agitation was the increase in the Goods and Services Tax on cartons from 12% to 18%. This was done to ensure that farmers are forced to sell their produce to big buyers instead of selling it in the open market. Just as the three farm laws were designed on the pretext of getting rid of the middlemen, the argument here was that commission agents, who fleece the apple growers, will be forced to exit the picture. But this leaves the apple growers at the mercy of large giants in procurement, who have precedence of even deciding the procurement price.

Large players do not buy apples in cartons; they procure them in plastic trays and decide the rate on the basis of kilogramme. By doing this, they argue that the cost of packaging gets reduced. It is true that it does – in the open market, the price is decided on the basis of an apple carton. In this manner, the big players induce the apple farmers to sell the produce to them. But there is a catch. Unlike in the open market, where apples of all varieties/grades are procured, the large players only procure apples of high quality. Such apples don't constitute even 20%-30% of the total production in a harvest. So, what happens to the rest of the apples? There is no answer.

As soon as the big players declare their procurement rates, they crash the market and bring in a substantial fall in the procurement prices across the market even though they don't procure even 5%-7% of the total produce. Unlike in Jammu and Kashmir, where there is a minimum rate for procurement, there is no such law in Himachal. The government also does not seem prepared to bring in such a law. The farmers are demanding that legally guaranteed procurement at a Minimum Support Price (C2+50%) should be ensured to improve their condition.

Need for a regulator

The government seems to be functioning under the pressures of big buyers. It doesn't seem to have the capacity to tame the market or even decide what should be the minimum procurement prices for apples of different grades. What is required is an independent body that is duly supported and trusted by the farmers. Such a body should have representatives of apple growers, market players, commission agents and the government. This must be a statutory body that is also given the task of conducting research in the apple economy. If this is not done, the economy of over ₹5,500 crore will be severely hit. The big growers or the rich peasants will be able to buffer the pressure, but the small and marginal apple growers will be impacted deeply and thrown out of this ecosystem. The big growers have also started to shift from the conventional varieties to more genetically modified varieties called the spur, most of which are imported from European nations. How this transformation will unfold is yet to be seen.

Tikender Singh Panwar is a former directly elected deputy mayor of Shimla and an urban practitioner. He was also president of Himachal Kisan Sabha

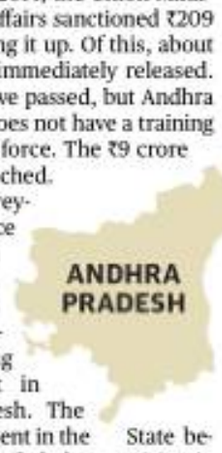
STATE OF PLAY

Greyhounds in search of home

It has taken far too long for the State to set up a base and training centre for the force in Andhra

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE

All is not well with the Greyhounds, the elite anti-Maoist force and a role model for all Left Wing Extremism-affected States, after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. As per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, the men and material of Greyhounds were to be shared by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Both the training centres of the Greyhounds – Prematathipet and Gandipet – were located in Hyderabad, and so the Act specified that Andhra Pradesh would have to set up its own base and training centre. In 2014, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs sanctioned ₹209 crore for setting it up. Of this, about ₹9 crore was immediately released. Eight years have passed, but Andhra Pradesh still does not have a training centre for the force. The ₹9 crore remains untouched.



The Greyhounds force was formed in 1989 by K.S. Vyas, an IPS officer, to combat the growing Maoist threat in Andhra Pradesh. The Maoist movement in the State began with the Srikakulam uprising in 1967. Though it was quashed intially, it was soon revived and picked up momentum. Vyas envisioned a force that would think alike in terms of combat and assault and be well-trained in guerilla and jungle warfare. Over the years, with its many successes, this special police force became the root cause for the downfall of Left Wing Extremism in Andhra Pradesh. It inspired the creation of other similar forces to fight the Maoists: Odisha developed the Special Operations Group; Maharashtra, the C-60; and West Bengal, the Counter Insurgency Force. Experts say that the CoBRA battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force, which is engaged in anti-Maoist operations in Chhattisgarh, is also fashioned on the lines of the Greyhounds.

Immediately after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, a Greyhounds contingent was moved to the operational base at Thimmapuram in Visakhapatnam. Spread over about 300 acres in forested land, this operational base was said to be a makeshift arrangement for the force. Though about 18 companies of the Greyhounds have moved to Thimmapuram, about 10 remaining ones of Andhra Pradesh are still based in Hyderabad.

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet gave its nod for the establishment of a full-fledged training centre-cum-residential facility for the Greyhounds and a Government Order was passed. The State government identified about 385 acres of land at Jagannadhapuram village of Chandaka panchayat of Anandapuram mandal in Visakhapatnam for the purpose. But not a stone has been moved yet, as there are rehabilitation and resettlement issues.

The land identified, officials say, was being cultivated by some farmers. The government agreed to pay them a compensation of about ₹9 crore. But as per senior officials from the district administration, a few politicians have fraudulently incorporated a few other names to take the demand for compensation to around ₹22 crore.

Senior police officials say that the identified land is perfect to convert it into a training centre-cum-operational base. If required, some part of the land can also be earmarked as the training centre for Octopus (Organisation for Counter Terrorist Operations), another elite counter terrorism unit of the Andhra Pradesh police, they say. But no one knows when this will happen. The Union Government is apparently exerting pressure on the State for a quick solution. It is time for the State to resolve the issue as it has taken far too long for the Greyhounds to find their home in Andhra Pradesh.

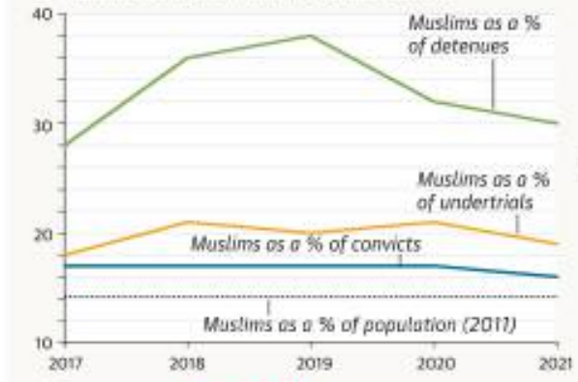
sumit.b@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

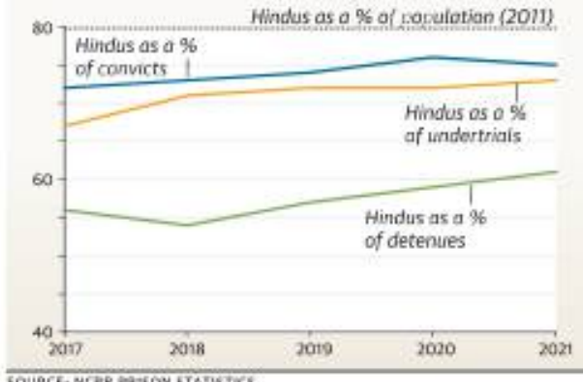
In detention: minority report

In 2021, over 30% of all detenues in Indian prisons were Muslims even though the community's share in the population is only 14.2% (as of 2011). Indian jails host four types of prisoners – convicts (persons found guilty of a crime and sentenced by a court), undertrials (currently on trial in a court of law), detenues (persons held lawfully in custody), and those who do not belong to any of these three categories and who comprise a small share of the total number of prisoners. Notably, in Assam, 61% of the convicts and 49% of the undertrials were Muslims, while the population share of the community in the State was 34%. Among States with a relatively high number of detainees, the share of Muslim detainees was notably disproportionate to the population share in Gujarat, U.P., Haryana and J&K U.T. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan** and **Jasmin Nihalani**

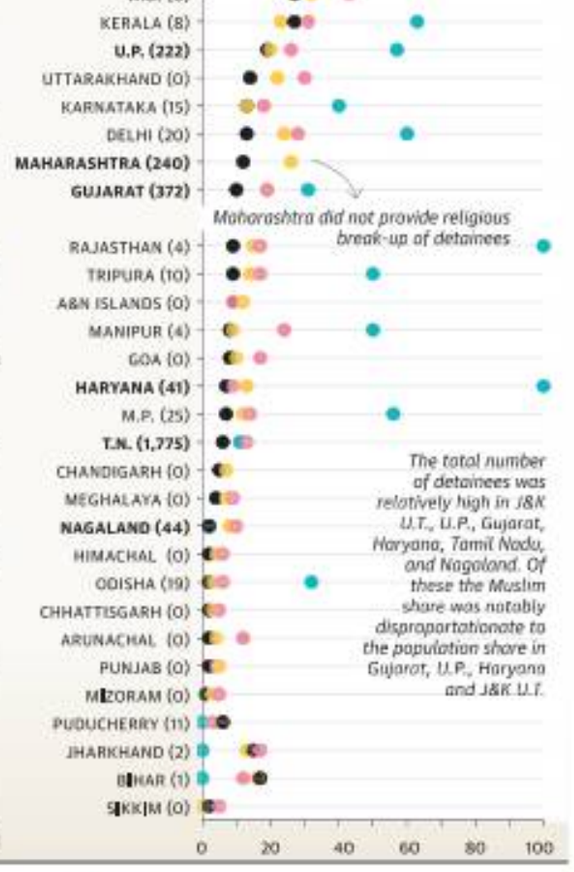
1 SHARE OF MUSLIMS | The chart shows the % of Muslims in the total population in India in 2011, the % of Muslim convicts, the % of Muslim undertrials and the % of Muslim detenues in Indian prisons as of 2021



2 SHARE OF HINDUS | The chart shows the % of Hindus of the total population in 2011, the % of Hindu convicts, the % of Hindu undertrials and the % of Hindu detenues in Indian prisons as of 2021



3 SHARE OF MUSLIMS STATE-WISE | The chart shows the % of Muslims in the total population in 2011 (●), the % of Muslim convicts (●), the % of Muslim undertrials (●) and the % of Muslim detenues (●) in prisons across States as of 2021. While the share of Muslim detenues was high in many States, the total number of detenues (number given in brackets) was higher only in some. So, the share has to be read along with the total detentions



SOURCE: NCRB PRISON STATISTICS

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE SEPT. 11, 1972 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON SEPT. 12

Project to save tiger from extinction

New Delhi, Sept. 10: A Rs. 5.8 crore project to save the magnificent Indian tiger from going the way of the dodo is to be launched on April 1 next year. The launching of the project has been rendered most urgent by the fact that a census of Indian tigers conducted in May and June this year has revealed that there are only 1827 tigers throughout the country as against an estimated 40,000 during the last century. The report on 'Project Tiger', prepared by a task force of experts, at the instance of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was presented to her by Dr. Karan Singh, Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation who is also the Chairman for the Indian Board for Wild Life. Mr. K.S. Sankhala, special officer for the project, who was a director for the Delhi Zoo and is an authority on tigers, explained the salient points of the project to pressmen. Under the conservation project of tigers, which will spread over six years from next April to the end of the Fifth Plan, eight areas in different States have been selected with a view to building up an optimum and viable tiger population. The chosen areas are: Manas Sanctuary in Assam; Palamau National Park in Bihar; Simlipal National Park in Orissa; Corbett National Park in Uttar Pradesh; Ranthambore Sanctuary in Rajasthan; Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh; Maighat Sanctuary in Maharashtra and Bandipur Sanctuary in Mysore. "Project Tiger" envisages a number of measures including provision of anti-poaching squads, prevention of grazing by cattle and collection of minor forest products, fire protection, and launching of research programmes in these areas.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 12, 1922

Opium traffic

Geneva, Sept. 10: The fifth Commission of the League discussed the opium traffic yesterday and unanimously agreed to the resolution proposed by Professor Galberi Murray and amended in accordance with the suggestion of Lord Chelmsford asking the Governments belonging to the International Opium Convention not to consent to give licenses for importation of opium and other narcotics, to which the Convention applies, to native countries which have not ratified or enforced the convention – and which have not adopted a system of control of exports and imports approved by the Assembly of the League on September 20th, 1921.

FROM PAGE ONE

Sharad Pawar seeks joint plans against BJP

Mr. Pawar accused Mr. Modi of misleading the country with his claim of "no transgression of Indian territory". "The Prime Minister had said the Chinese Army did not enter, but now it is clear that he had made a misrepresentation. The failure of the Modi government on the matter of China is clear." He said defence experts had clearly stated that India had not been able to recapture the positions it lost in April 2020.

Mr. Pawar questioned, "Why are we not able to act assertively in front of Chinese infiltration or take action today, if this is not our failure then what is?"

Mr. Pawar, in his 30-minute speech, spent a significant time talking about the state of economy. He said the government was celebrating the fact that India had outstripped Britain to become the fifth largest economy in the world, without telling the country the cost at which this status had come. He said inflation was at its peak and the cost of essential commodities was sky high. The rupee had fallen against the dollar and the per capita income had come down. "The far-reaching consequences of all these can be fatal. But at the same time, BJP people are seen saying that everything is going well, their government is very good and the country's economy is ahead as compared to many other countries," Mr. Pawar rued.

He also accused the government of misusing the Central agencies against the opposition parties. Opposition leaders cutting across party lines, including Sonia Gandhi, Farooq Abdullah, P. Chidambaram, etc. are under the scanner of agencies.

Ukraine makes gains in Russian-held territory

The retreat from the city of Izium marked Russian forces' worst defeat since they were pushed back from the capital Kyiv in March, as thousands of Russian soldiers left behind ammunition and equipment as they fled.

The gains are important politically for Mr. Zelensky as he seeks to keep Europe united behind Ukraine – supplying weapons and money – even as an energy crisis looms this winter following cuts in Russian gas supplies to European customers.

Military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said the gains could pave the way for a further push into Luhansk region. "If you look at the map, it is logical to assume that the offensive will develop in the direction of Svatove-Starobelsk, and Sievierodonetsk-Lysychansk. These are two promising directions," he said.

Britain's Defence Ministry said on Sunday Ukrainian forces continued making gains in the Kharkiv region. However, fighting continued around Izium and the city of Kupiansk, the sole rail hub supplying Russia's frontline across northeastern Ukraine, which has been recaptured by Ukrainian forces.

As the war entered its 200th day, Ukraine reported more Russian strikes overnight and regional officials reported heavy Russian shelling in the east and south.

Eastern Donetsk Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said on Telegram 10 civilians were killed overnight. Further south, nine were injured in the town of Mykolaiv, its mayor said.

While fighting raged, conditions at Europe's biggest nuclear power plant continued to cause global concern.

But on Sunday the International Atomic Energy Agency said a backup power line to the Russian-held plant had been restored, providing it with the external electricity it needs to cool its reactors and defend against the risk of a meltdown. State agency Energoatom said it halted operations at the plant as a safety step, as the restored line to the grid allowed the plant to be powered by Ukraine's energy system.

India raises objection to Pak. F-16 refit

During meetings with U.S. official Donald Lu, MEA protested against sale of spares of jet to Pakistan

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

During official meetings with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu in Delhi last week, India raised "strong objections" to the U.S. plan for Foreign Military Sales (FMS) to Pakistan at an estimated $450 million for hardware, software and spares for the F-16 fighter jet programme.

The Hindu has learnt that officials protested against the decision at "each and every" bilateral meeting Mr. Lu and his delegation had during their visit for the Quad Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

In particular, the Indian side cited concerns about the technology and support being made available for the F-16s which Pakistan claims are needed for "counter-terrorism operations".

The government conveyed that it believed they would be used for operations against India.

Apart from the SOM, Mr. Lu and Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner held inter-sessional 2+2 meetings with delegations from the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs. In addition, Mr. Lu met with Joint Secretary Vani Rao separately, and also called on Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra.

> We heard several concerns from the Indian government. Let me say this very clearly, this is a safety and maintenance programme. There is no new aircraft being considered, no new capability and no new weapons system
>
> DONALD LU
> U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

Mr. Lu told officials that the FMS package was a maintenance deal for F-16s, some of which are 40 years old and part of the U.S.'s global policy of maintaining its defence sales for their entire life cycle.

However, New Delhi is understood to have repeated its scepticism on the issue and made its displeasure known quite clearly. In contrast to 2016, when the External Affairs Ministry had issued a statement expressing its "disappointment" with the planned sale of F-16s, and then Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar had summoned the U.S. Ambassador to protest, this time, the Ministry has chosen not to make any public comment.

"We heard several concerns from the Indian government," admitted Mr. Lu in an interview to the *India Today* TV channel. "Let me say this very clearly, this is a safety and maintenance programme. There is no new aircraft being considered, no new capability and no new weapons system," he said.

Significantly, the announcement of the FMS package came while Mr. Lu and Mr. Ratner were in Delhi, and a reason for the government being upset was that it took them by surprise.

The announcement made by the Defence Security Cooperation Agency, that gave details of the 12 categories the U.S. would provide support to Pakistan for, said that the State Department had approved the deal and that the DSCA delivered the required certification notifying Congress of possible sale on September 7.

Mr. Lu also expressed some scepticism about the latest India-China disengagement agreement at Patrolling Point-15 at the Line of Actual Control announced this week, saying the U.S. is not seeing "any sincere effort by Beijing to resolve the dispute".

He said the U.S. would stand by India "resolutely" as it faces what he called the "terrible threat" from China. The MEA declined to comment on his remarks.

The disagreement over the F-16 package is one of a number of areas where New Delhi and Washington appear to be at odds, despite a period of active engagement, including the meetings with Mr. Lu in Delhi, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's visit to the U.S. for the IPEF ministerial meetings and bilateral trade talks, and a visit by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Treasury Wally Adeyemo at the end of August.

Apart from the government's suspicions over the Biden administration rekindling ties with Pakistan and the Shehbaz Sharif government, India decided to stay out of the trade pillar of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, citing concerns any trade agreement may "discriminate" against developing economies over issues such as environmental commitments, labour standards and digital laws.

In addition, India has not joined the U.S. push to build a G-7 led coalition on enforcing price caps on Russian oil. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Mr. Putin at the Eastern Economic Forum that he attended virtually this week that India wants to step up its energy ties with Russia.

In the past few months, India has also rejected U.S. calls to change its vote on Russia at the UN, and refused to cut Russian energy purchases, instead increasing its oil imports from Russia about 50 times.

This week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Uzbekistan, where he will be joined by leaders of Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, Belarus, Pakistan, Central Asian States and possibly Syria, is unlikely to be seen positively by Washington as well.

Modi to attend SCO meeting with Xi, Putin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Samarkand in Uzbekistan this week to attend the first in-person summit of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) countries since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

As *The Hindu* had reported in July, the summit in Uzbekistan will be the first time Mr. Modi will come face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping since the stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) began in April 2020, and the first time he will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin since the invasion in Ukraine.

The MEA statement said that the Prime Minister is "likely to hold a few bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit", but didn't confirm which leaders he plans to meet separately.

Other leaders will include the member Central Asian countries, and Pakistan and Iran, as well as leaders from Turkey and Belarus, which are partner countries.

Restoration of Article 370 in J&K unlikely, says Azad

Ex-Cong. leader to float party in 10 days

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, in his first rally in the Kashmir Valley since he left the Congress party, on Sunday said that the restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir was unlikely to happen. Article 370 granted special constitutional status to the erstwhile State. It was revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

Ghulam Nabi Azad taking part in a rally in Baramulla.

"For votes, I won't mislead people like other parties. To restore Article 370, political parties would need a majority in the Lok Sabha of around 350 votes and 175 in the Rajya Sabha. This is a number no political party has or is likely to ever get. The number of Congress MPs (in the Lok Sabha) has come down to below 50 seats and if they speak of restoring Article 370, they are making false promises," Mr. Azad said, during a public rally in north Kashmir's Baramulla.He was quick to add that a fresh law that can stop outsiders from applying in J&K can be even passed in the State Assembly. Mr. Azad, who announced floating a party in next 10 days, said false slogans had cost J&K a lot.

Food prices may affect Aug. inflation

Retail inflation was 7.28% in first quarter; RBI expects it to touch 7.1% in July-Sept.

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Cooling food prices may have helped moderate retail inflation to a five-month low of 6.7% in July, but there could be a reversal in August's inflation print thanks to concerns about the uneven progression of the monsoon through the country and other factors.

Price rise in food items had dropped to the lowest level since March 2022 at 6.75% in July, from 7.75% in June, and was seen as the key driver for bringing consumer price inflation below 7% after a three-month spell.

In recent weeks, the government has imposed curbs on external as well as internal trade of food items such as rice, *atta* (wheat flour), and tur dal, reflecting its recognition of their surging prices. Food items constitute a little over 45% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the National Statistical Office is scheduled to release the August CPI on Monday.

A 50-kg potato bag is being sold between ₹600 and ₹800 at the Azadpur Mandi in Delhi on Sunday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Retail inflation has averaged 7.28% in the April-to-June quarter of 2022-23, and the RBI, in August, pared its second quarter (Q2) inflation projection to 7.1% from 7.4%. Yet, July's print of 6.7% would mean higher price rise can be expected in the months of August and September. CARE Ratings expects inflation in Q2 to be "pretty much in line" with the RBI's 7.1% estimate.

Even as overall food inflation moderated in July, inflation in cereals such as wheat and rice had edged up to 6.9% due to a consistent rise in their prices on account of limited supply, noted CARE Ratings chief economist Rajani Sinha.

The base effect from August 2021, when retail inflation was 5.3% compared to 5.6% a month earlier, may also lead to a slight rise in the CPI reading. Another factor that may drive up retail food prices is that August marks the first full month of GST levies on unbranded, prepacked food items which kicked in on July 18.

Moreover, the volatility in rupee and uneven monsoon distribution continue to pose a risk to overall inflation, she emphasised.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar cautioned that August and September retail inflation numbers could be "slightly" higher than July's 6.7% level due to base effects. While edible oil, vegetables, meat and fish inflation had dropped in July, fruit, eggs and cereal had recorded upticks, she said.

Bangladesh Forces to guard pandals

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh will deploy paramilitary Ansar Bahini during the upcoming Durga Puja celebrations in all puja pandals across the country, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan on Sunday.

The decision was taken following a meeting between leaders of the minority Hindu community and officials of the Government of Bangladesh here.

Mr. Khan announced at a press conference that Durga Puja, the largest festival of the Hindus of Bangladesh, would be held in a total of 32,168 puja pandals across the country.

Deployment of the Ansar Bahini and government-sanctioned volunteers would be ensured to avert a repeat of the communal attacks that were witnessed in 2021 when a large number of puja pandals in Comilla, Chittagong and other places were destroyed in mob attacks following suspicious reports of sacrilege.

The Minister said all pandals would be fitted with CCTV cameras to keep an eye on the law and order situation. He urged the puja organisers to ensure proper road access to the pandals for vehicles from the Fire Service department and police forces.

'Mastermind' behind Chinese shell firms held

Serious Fraud Investigation Office picked him up in Bihar while trying to cross the border, enter Nepal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) late on Saturday arrested a person said to be the mastermind behind a slew of Chinese shell companies operating in the country, from a remote part of Bihar while he was attempting to cross the border through the land route.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs had conducted a simultaneous search and seizure operation on September 8 at the Gurugram and Bengaluru offices of a firm called Jillian Consultants India Private Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Jilian Hong Kong Ltd.

A Hyderabad-based firm Husys Consulting Ltd. that was earlier listed on the stock exchanges was also probed in the operation. "Investigations so far have revealed the possible involvement of these shell companies in serious financial crimes detrimental to the financial security of the country," the Ministry said.

The person arrested on Saturday, after the Ministry assigned SFIO the task of investigating Jillian Consultants and 32 other shell companies with Chinese links in India, has been identified as a board member of the firm, Mr. Dortse. He has 'shown himself' as a resident of Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. "Mr. Dortse is on the Board of Jillian India Ltd. and has clearly emerged as the mastermind of the whole racket of incorporating large number of shell companies with Chinese links in India and providing dummy directors on their Boards," the Ministry said.

Evidence acquired during the search operations points to dummy directors being paid by Jilian India Ltd. to act as dummies in several shell companies, with boxes full of company seals and digital signatures of dummy directors being recovered.

"The Indian employees were in touch with the Chinese counterparts through a Chinese instant messaging app. Husys Ltd. was also found to be acting on behalf of Jilian India Ltd. Initial observations reveal that Husys Ltd. had a pact with Jilian Hong Kong Ltd.," the Ministry said.

This operation could also be linked to the crackdown on illegal loan apps directed by Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earlier this week, under which the Corporate Affairs Ministry has been tasked with identifying and de-registering shell companies to prevent their misuse. The RBI is also reviewing dormant NBFCs and has been asked to cancel their licences to avoid their misuse by such app operators.

Ms. Sitharaman had asked all Ministries and agencies to take all possible actions to prevent operations of illegal loan apps that especially target vulnerable, low-income groups at high interest rates and then resort to blackmail. "Mr. Dortse and one Chinese national are the two directors in Jilian Consultants India Pvt. Ltd.," the Ministry said. Mr. Dortse had fled from Delhi-NCR to a remote place in Bihar and was attempting to escape India and a special SFIO team was dispatched there.

Kamra writes to VHP after cancellation of show

I'm a bigger Hindu than it, he says

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In an open letter to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Sunday, stand-up comic Kunal Kamra claimed that he was a "bigger Hindu" than the VHP and that he doesn't earn his living through "fear mongering" and "threatening people".

Kunal Kamra

The letter, written in Hindi, comes days after Mr. Kamra's show, scheduled to take place at a Gurugram bar, was cancelled following threats by right-wing organisations. He was scheduled to perform on September 17 and 18 at Studio Xo bar in Sector 29, Gurugram. Mr. Kamra challenged the VHP to condemn Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse or else they would be perceived as "anti-Hindu".

"I chant 'Jai Sita Ram' and 'Jai Radha Krishna' loudly with pride. If you are the children of India, write and send messages of 'Godse Murdabad'. If you don't then you will be perceived as anti-Hindu and terrorism supporters," Mr. Kamra wrote. Mr. Kamra wrote further that if the VHP considers Godse as god, then they can keep getting his shows cancelled. "I will be happy to have emerged as a bigger Hindu than you in this test. I'll at least eat from my hard-earned bread since I'm a bigger Hindu than you," the letter said.

Meghalaya mob lynches four jail escapees

One of them was accused of killing two drivers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A mob in Meghalaya on Sunday lynched four of six persons who had escaped from a district jail after attacking and overpowering the guards less than 24 hours before.

The four were beaten to death with iron rods and sticks at Shangpung in West Jaintia Hills district, about 20 km from the jail located in district headquarters Jowai.

One of the inmates who escaped from jail. His fate is not known, say police.

The district's Deputy Commissioner, Batlang S. Sohliya, confirmed the death of the four jail escapees but said the details were awaited.

"Their bodies are being brought to the Jowai Civil Hospital for post-mortem and identification," he said.

But local police officials said one of the persons lynched was I Love You Talang who had been arrested along with Ramesh Dkhar for allegedly killing two taxi drivers.

Dkhar was among the six who escaped on Saturday. His fate was not known.

"Five of the six who escaped had gone in the direction of Shangpung while the sixth took a different route. The villagers pounced upon the five as soon as they spotted them," a police official handling the case said.

The police official said that it was not clear if the fifth person in the group managed to escape from the mob or was missing after being injured.

5 policemen locked up at station

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A video of Superintendent of Police (SP) of Nawada district, Gaurav Mangla, allegedly keeping five policemen inside lock-up at a police station over their non-performance, went viral on social media. Following this, the Bihar Police Association on Sunday demanded a judicial probe into the incident.

APPEAL

10 years old Vignesh is suffering from Muscular Dystrophy which has taken a toll on seventy percent of his body. He is in urgent need of an electric wheel chair to gain mobility and a world of opportunities. This wheelchair costs around **Rs.90,000/-** only. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer (Syndicate Bank, Nungambakkam Branch A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. SYNB0006018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

(All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324.**
E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

INTERVIEW | TEJASHWI YADAV

'Grand alliance is not only for Bihar, it has national implications'

The mistake of not coming together in the 2019 Lok Sabha election should not be repeated in 2024, the RJD leader says, calling for the Opposition to unite to oust BJP

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister **Tejashwi Yadav** *speaks about the priorities of his government and Opposition unity and the Congress's role in it. He says he trusts Janata Dal(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar not to repeat his mistake of 2017 when he walked out of the grand alliance (*Mahagatbandhan*) midway to return to the BJP. Excerpts:*

You have only less than three years ahead of you to implement the RJD's own pre-poll promises, including 10 lakh jobs. What is your road map?

■ Our priority is to provide government jobs and we have already started work on that. We are charting out the vacancies in various departments which we will fill up. There are close to four lakh to five lakh vacancies. Regularly, at every Cabinet meeting, we will approve recruitment for 10,000 to 12,000 vacancies. You will get to see the results in the next few months.

You have been critical of prohibition and now that you are in government, will the Bihar government pull back on prohibition, considering liquor is freely available in the State while the exchequer suffers loss.

■ The BJP-JD(U) government was running on the *Saat Nishchey* (Seven Promises) agenda fixed by the grand alliance in 2015. The prohibition policy started with us; we were critical of the implementation because liquor continues to be available. Yes, it is a tough job, especially since we are a border State. The issue of loss to exchequer definitely is there and for which we are exploring different modes of revenue generation. But ultimately, we believe in liquor-free Bihar.

JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar left you midway in 2017. Aren't you afraid that he will do the same again now?

■ Nitish*ji* has already conceded that the BJP misled him by filing a false case against me, accusing me of corruption. And he is someone who does not tolerate corruption. But five years down the line, the case stands nowhere, so it was obvious that it was just a tool by the BJP to create confusion. He has said that he made a mistake.

In Bihar, after all parties came together, the BJP is nowhere. And if this is replicated nationally, then it is clear that the BJP can be ousted.

Do you trust Nitish Kumar not to make the same "mistake" again?

■ Why would I be in the government if I do not trust him? We have a bigger question at hand. This grand alliance is not only for our State, it has national implications. BJP is out to destroy regional parties, as they tried to do with the Janata Dal(U) and we have to resist it.

Before we delve into national politics, please tell me how will you explain to your voters why you are with the very person you have been abusing since the 2017 split?

■ Voters in Bihar are politically very aware, they know everything. In fact, they are happy that we have come together to oust the BJP. There is nothing for us to explain.

Yet, with this switch, aren't you now also shouldering Nitish Kumar's label of being a "*paltu ram*" (turncoat)?

■ These are mere labels. When Nitish Kumar left the National Democratic Alliance ahead of the 2014 election, his 'DNA' was faulty. In 2017, suddenly his DNA turned out to be fine. The step we took is born out of the necessity of the current atmosphere and the demand from the grassroots.

Last week, Nitish Kumar was in Delhi discussing the 'Bihar model'. Are we looking at a pre-poll alliance against the BJP ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections?

■ In Bihar, after all parties came together, the BJP is nowhere. And if this is replicated nationally, then it is clear that the BJP can be ousted. And seat distribution should be done according to each party's strength in each State.

Why couldn't you do it in 2019?

■ That was a mistake, and I hope that we do not repeat it.

How is such a unity possible when the Trinamool Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party or the Telangana Rashtra Samithi do not want to work together with the Congress?

■ To save our democracy and Constitution, it is obvious that we have to let go of our ego and be ready to concede a couple of seats here and there for larger national good.

As far as the Congress is concerned, among the Opposition parties, it currently holds the highest number of seats. In my view, the Congress should fight in the seats where it is in a direct fight with the BJP, but wherever regional parties are stronger as in Bihar, the Congress should let us sit in the driving seat.

Will we see you in the Chief Minister's chair in 2024?

■ I am currently the Deputy Chief Minister, let me do my work. I am not in a hurry or any desire. And if I desired the Chief Minister's post, I would have met the BJP and had an alliance with them instead of the JD(U).

Regional ally slams National People's Party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

After the BJP, a regional ally has stepped up the attack on the Conrad K. Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP) in Meghalaya.

The unhappiness of the United Democratic Party (UDP) with the NPP's "tendency to take credit for all good things done since 2018" has assumed significance ahead of the Assembly election in the State. The polls are to be held by February 2023.

"There should be some ethics in politics, especially in a coalition government," UDP general secretary Jemino Mawthoh told presspersons in Shillong.

The UDP has also been vocal against NPP for a notification making the Code of Criminal Procedure and Code of Civil Procedure applicable in tribal areas.

'Bharat Jodo Yatra has worried the BJP'

Jairam Ramesh says it's a counter movement to the 'divide India' project of the Sangh Parivar

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh has said that the Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by party leader Rahul Gandhi, has unsettled the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has resorted to "cheap, childish and stupid" diversionary tactics.

"The yatra has evidently worried the BJP and has prompted it to target T-shirts, containers, socks, shoes and hairstyles. Let them raise whatever question they want and play whatever mischief on social media. Their only objective is to derail us. We will not be cowed down and be diverted," Mr. Ramesh, who is in charge of the party's communications wing, told presspersons here on Sunday.

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Ramesh said the rally was not meant as a *Mann Ki Baat* monologue but as one to listen to different voices that represented various cross-sections of the country. "It is a counter movement to the Bharat *Thodo* (divide India) project of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP. While the BJP stood for uniformity, we (Congress) worked to strengthen unity in the country," he said.

In good stead: Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. • S. MAHINSHA

While the Bharat Jodo Yatra will pass through 12 States over 148 days, smaller rallies will be organised in the other States such as Assam, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand, he added.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the initial days of the yatra had been successful "beyond expectations" with lakhs of people joining the movement in Kanniyakumari. The rally is certain to become a historic milestone in Indian politics, he said.

Grouse with CPI(M)

Clarifying that the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has not extended a welcome for the yatra in Kerala, Mr. Venugopal accused the party of being on the "same page" as the BJP.

"While our focus is primarily to undo the harm dealt by the BJP in the country, the CPI(M) can try all it wants to divert focus." he said, while quickly adding the Central leadership of the CPI(M) differed from its State unit in its political stance.

He said the Congress presidential election would be democratic and transparent, even while insisting that Mr. Gandhi was the only leader who "can fight the evil forces in the current scenario".

BJP strives to repeat Himachal victory

Party works on booth-level outreach

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

With an eye on returning to power in the hill State of Himachal Pradesh, the ruling BJP is aggressively working with micro-level planning in an attempt to reach the voters through its various wings at the booth level in the run-up to the Assembly election, due later this year.

The key wings of the party, including the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (youth), Kisan Morcha (farmers), Mahila Morcha (women), and SC Morcha (Scheduled Castes), have been pressed into action to makes voters aware of the government's achievements and welfare work to garner support.

Party members, especially youth wing associates, have been pushing the 'One Booth 20 Youth' campaign across the State, with aim to win over 20 youngsters at each polling booth.

"Across the State, there are over 7,500 polling booths and, in a phased manner, we have covered them all, and all our wings are working with full strength on the ground in the constituencies. The party recognises the importance of these wings and hence, strategically, they have been assigned the job," the BJP's State in-charge Avinash Rai Khanna told *The Hindu*.

In the 2017 polls, the BJP had won 44 seats in the 64-member Assembly.

As the election to the 68-member Himachal Pradesh Assembly closes in, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to sound the poll bugle with his rally on September 24 in Mandi town. "Preparations for the Prime Minister's rally will be done by Yuva Morcha members...this is for the first time that the PM will be attending a 'Morcha' rally in the country. In this rally, the majority of attendees are expected to be below 40 years and the plan is to get one lakh youth to participate," he said.

The election to the 68-member Assembly is due later this year. In the 2017 polls, the BJP had won 44 seats while the Congress had secured 21 seats, and others got three seats.

Arunachal villagers fight losing battle to save forest

Residents of Nyukmadong village say Border Roads Organisation destroyed more than 80% of sacred forest with impunity

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Almost 60 years after becoming collateral damage to one of the fiercest battles between Indian Army soldiers and Chinese invaders, a village in Arunachal Pradesh is fighting a war to protect a sacred forest from a project that aims to prevent a repeat of 1962.

However, the 217 families of Nyukmadong, an off-the-highway village in West Kameng district, seem to be losing the fight against the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), a wing of the very Army their ancestors had aided during the Chinese aggression six decades ago.

Perched 8,389 ft above the mean sea level, Nyukmadong is about 40 km short of Sela, a strategic pass at 13,700 ft on the way to Tawang. The place is known for a Buddhist-style war memorial on a 1.5-acre plot overlooking the site of a battle on November 18, 1962.

The villagers said more than 80% of the 36-sq. km sacred forest has been destroyed for an alternative "strategic" road to Sela. More than the "heritage trees" felled along the alignment of the 34-km road from Banga-Janga-Gompa to Naga GG (BJG-NGG), the damage has been done by earth dumped indiscriminately on valuable trees and medicinal plants down the slope from the edge of the under-construction road, they said.

Many "heritage trees" have been felled, say villagers.

"We have been running from pillar to post. Officers of the GREF (General Reserve Engineering Force under BRO) do not care about the destruction to the landscape and appeals to the State government have fallen on deaf ears," Yeshi Tsering, a retired horticulture officer and chairman of the local committee told *The Hindu*.

Nyukmadong is not the only area affected by the new road. The other impacted areas are Gyandrabrangsa, Halftangmu, Penpeytang, Chendhuphu, Yangphu and Changphunakphu.

According to Dipayan Dey of the Kolkata-based South Asian Forum for Environment, the road project is an example of trespassing and ignoring the rights of a local tribal community to the land and the forest ecosystem they are dependent on.

He said it could be the first test case for the new Forest Rule, 2022 that seeks to rob indigenous people of their right to forest resources.

Permission after felling?

People said the destruction of their sacred forest began more than a year ago without any community consultation or participatory meeting. The community leaders lodged a formal complaint with the Additional Deputy Commissioner of West Kameng on June 14, 2021, to stop the project.

When this made no headway, community members filed a complaint against the BRO at the Dirang (the nearest town 17 km from Nyukmadong) police station on August 24. This could not arrest the forest's destruction.

The villagers received a major blow when the State's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, R.K. Singh, granted the "diversion of 97.95 hectares of forestland" to construct the BJG-NGG road before he was transferred to Mizoram.

The letter of approval on April 6 this year to the commanding offer of the 97 RCC (GREF) said the permission was for 12 months subject to conditions such as adherence to conservation laws. "The letter was almost a year too late," a local activist said.

Community leaders decided on September 10 to approach the National Green Tribunal.

The BRO did not respond to questions about bulldozing through the Nyukmadong forest.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता, जल संसाधन खण्ड प्रथम, अजमेर

क्रमांक- 1863-67 दिनांक- 06.09.2022

संशोधित सूचना

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा जारी ई- निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2022-23 में निम्नानुसार निविदा डाउनलोड व अपलोड एवं निविदा खोलने की दिनांक में संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	संशोधित सूचना	पूर्व में निर्धारित दिनांक व समय	संशोधित दिनांक व समय
1	निविदा डाउनलोड व अपलोड	16.08.2022 से 06.09.22 सायं 06.00 बजे तक	16.8.2022 से 15.09.22 सायं 06.00 बजे तक
2	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	07.09.22 दोपहर 03.00 बजे तक	16.9.2022 दोपहर 03.00 बजे तक

नोट:- निविदा की अन्य शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेगी R.O. No:- 10731

UBN:-
WRD2223WSOB01079, WRD2223WSOB01080, WRD2223WSOB01081, WRD2223WSOB01082, WRD2223WSOB01083, WRD2223WSOB01084, WRD2223WSOB01085, WRD2223WSOB01086

1. www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in 3. www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in
2. www.diprrajasthan.gov.in 4. www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd

DIPR/C/11648/2022

अधिशासी अभियन्ता जल संसाधन
खण्ड प्रथम अजमेर, Mob. No. 9414308801

Man held for 'recruitment graft' tweets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Opposition parties in Assam have slammed the BJP-led State government for arresting a man who took to Twitter to "expose" an alleged recruitment scam.

Victor Das had, a few days ago, reached out to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Twitter, claiming that a few officials and former MLAs were involved in selling 26,000 Grade III and IV government posts for ₹3-8 lakh.

However, the police arrested Mr. Das, who runs a coaching institute in Guwahati, for "spreading rumours and indulging in a conspiracy to foment discord between various sections of society over selection to government posts".

Akhilesh to strengthen party structure to face 2024 election

The SP eschews alliance with BSP, Congress

MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW

The main Opposition party in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party (SP), is focusing on strengthening its organisational structure in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The focus of the leadership is to revamp the organisation and correct the loopholes visible during the 2022 Assembly poll in the coming months.

In all likelihood, the State and national convention would happen by November-December, new teams would be formed and afterwards the party may also appoint those in charge of overseeing the preparation of every Lok Sabha constituency.

In July, the party national president and former Chief Minister, Akhilesh Yadav, dissolved the SP's national, State and district executives. Since then, Mr. Yadav has been continuously meeting party workers and visiting different districts to get the pulse of the ground situation.

After the bitter experiences of the 2017 Assembly election and 2019 Lok Sabha election, the party is in no mood to form a coalition in the State with other political parties such as the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Congress.

"The SP will fight the 2024 Lok Sabha election with its existing alliance partners and is capable enough to defeat the ruling BJP. The public mood is against the government. There is no question of any alliance with the BSP or the Congress," said the party's chief spokesperson, Rajendra Chaudhary.

Despite losing the 2022 Assembly election, the SP is confident of a good show in 2024 as its vote share has increased by over 10%, and it was placed ahead in at least 24 Lok Sabha segments in that election.

भारतीय ताराभौतिकी संस्थान
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS
II हवांगक, कोरमंगला बेंगलूरु
2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560034
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना Notice Inviting Tender

मुहरबंद निविदाएं निम्नवत कार्य के लिए आमंत्रित की जाती हैं
Sealed Tenders are invited for the following work:

1. Renovation of toilets in various buildings at Vainu Bappu Observatory (VBO), IIA, Kavalur, Tirupattur District, Tamil Nadu.

Tender Notice No.057/IIA/CIVIL/VBO/KAVALUR/22-23 dated 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Detailed Tender Document can be downloaded from Institute's Website **www.iiap.res.in/tenders.htm.** Last date for receipt of bid is on or before **11th October 2022 at 15:00 hours.**

प्रशासनिक अधिकारी
Administrative Officer

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड बयाना

क्रमांक: 1190 दिनांक: 02.09.2022

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 12/2022-23

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से खण्ड बयाना में एस.आर.एफ. योजनान्तर्गत कुल 02 पैकेज निर्माण कार्य एवं दोष निवारण के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं तार संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **www.sppp.raj.nic.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है।

NIB NO.: PWD2223A1822
UBN NO.: PWD2223WSOB06762 (Rs. 298.39 Lakhs)
UBN NO.: PWD2223WSOB06762 (Rs. 183.36 Lakhs)

(लक्ष्मण सिंह)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. खण्ड बयाना

डीआईपीआर/सी/11516/2022

TAMIL NADU URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Government of Tamil Nadu
No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600005, Tamil Nadu, India.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)
(Consulting Services – Individual Selection)

Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project financed by the World Bank. TNUHDB now invites eligible Individual Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services for the below mentioned assignment for Project Monitoring Unit of TNUHDB under the World Bank financed Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project.

Selection of Individual Consultant:

(1) Environment Consultant for PMU

The detailed REOI and Terms of Reference are available in the websites - www.tnuhdb.tn.gov.in and www.tenders.tn.gov.in. Last date and time for submission of EOI is **23.09.2022 up to 5:45 PM.** The EOI shall be sent to the Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit - World Bank Project, Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai – 600 005, Tamil Nadu, India. E-mail: tnuhdbprocurement@gmail.com.

Sd/- 07.09.2022
Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit

DIPR / 4049 / Tender / 2022

பிறருடைய வேற்று கருத்துக்கும் அவைகளை மதிக்கும் மாண்பை பயப்போம்!

'Adopt a TB patient' drive finds *mitras*

Scheme introduced to engage the community in India's fight at eliminating tuberculosis by 2025

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry's "adopt a TB-patient" (*Nikshay Mitra*) initiative – probably the only one-of-its-kind in the world – announced on Friday had 1,78,443 TB patients and 1,667 *Ni-kshay Mitras* (donors) enrolling till Sunday evening.

The programme was brought in to fill the critical "community" element into India's fight towards eliminating TB by 2025 under the Pradhan Mantri TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

"Though the efforts of the government are yielding significant results, the community and the institutions in society could play a critical role in filling the gaps and addressing the social determinants, thereby contributing to the national goal," a Health Ministry official said.

The official said that for the effective engagement of the community for eradicating TB in India, the Ministry was implementing community support for TB patients – the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

The donors include cooperative societies, corporates, elected representatives, individuals, institutions, non-governmental organisations, political parties and partners willing to adopt the health facilities (for individual donor) and urban wards, blocks, districts and States for accelerating the response against TB to complement the government's efforts, as per the district-specific requirements in coordination with the district administration.

India has the world's highest tuberculosis burden with nearly four lakh people dying from it every year. • NISSAR AHMAD

Additional support

According to the Ministry, the State and the district administration would support the donors in prioritising the districts and in providing guidance on the critical gap analysis and district-specific needs.

The support provided to the patient under this initiative is in addition to the free diagnostics, free drugs and the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana provided by the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) to all the patients notified from both the public and the private sector.

The Ministry said that donors would provide additional support to all the on-treatment TB patients who had given consent for support, in the selected health facilities, blocks, urban wards, districts and States. "Only individual donors can choose the patients from a given health facility.

Others have to choose the entire geographical unit (blocks, urban wards, districts and States)," noted a Health Ministry official.

He added that the type of additional assistance that may be provided by the donors to on-treatment TB patients who had given consent for support shall include nutritional support, additional investigations, vocational support and additional nutritional supplements.

The minimum period of commitment for providing the support to the TB patient will be one year. The Ministry said that the initiative would increase the active involvement of society in the fight against tuberculosis.

"This activity aims at increasing awareness among the public regarding tuberculosis and the involvement of the community in supporting the treatment cascade shall also help in the reduction of the stigma. Ultimately, improved nutrition for TB patient shall result in better treatment outcomes," the Ministry explained in its guidance document.

India has the world's highest tuberculosis (TB) burden, with 26 lakh people contracting the disease and approximately four lakh people dying from it every year. The economic burden of TB in terms of the loss of lives, income and workdays is also substantial. TB usually affects the most economically productive age group of society resulting in a significant loss of working days.

Shishir bags top rank in IIT entrance examination

40,712 of 1.5 lakh JEE (Advanced) candidates qualified

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The results of the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) were announced on Sunday. R.K. Shishir from the Bombay zone bagged the top rank, officials said.

The IIT-Bombay, which conducted the exam, said Shishir secured 314 out of 360 marks. Tanishka Kabra from the Delhi zone came first among women candidates with 277 marks. Her all-India rank is 16.

Shishir is followed by Polu Lakshmi Sai Lohith Reddy and Thomas Biju Cheeramvelil on the second and third spots, respectively.

Over 1.5 lakh candidates

Over 1.5 lakh candidates appeared for the exam and over 40,000 qualified.

"As many as 1,55,538 candidates appeared in both paper one and two in the

R.K. Shishir

JEE (Advanced) 2022. A total of 40,712 candidates have qualified of which 6,516 are women," a senior IIT-Bombay official said.

"R.K. Shishir of the IIT-Bombay zone is the top ranker in the common rank list. He obtained 314 marks out of 360. Tanishka Kabra of the IIT-Delhi zone is the top-ranked woman at 16 on the rank list. She obtained 277 marks out of 360," he added.

The top 10 include Vangapalli Sai Siddhartha, Mayank Motwani, Polisetty Karthikeya, Pratik Sahoo, Dheeraj Kurukunda, Mahit Gadhiwala and Vetcha Gnana Mahesh.

Marking system

"The aggregate is calculated as a sum of the marks obtained in mathematics, physics and chemistry. Candidates have to satisfy subject-wise as well as aggregate qualifying marks to be included in the rank list," the IIT-Bombay official said.

The JEE-Main, which is the admission test for national-level engineering colleges, is the qualifying exam for JEE-Advanced.

A total of 16,598 seats are up for grabs in the 23 IITs this year, including 1,567 supernumerary seats for women candidates. This marks a marginal increase in the number of seats from last year.

Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati dies aged 99

He was Dwarka Peeth Sankaracharya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

Dwarka Peeth Sankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati, once known as a "revolutionary sadhu" for participating in the freedom struggle, who spoke his mind on religious and political issues and questioned the "deification" of Saibaba of Shirdi, died of a cardiac arrest in his ashram in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. He was 99.

Swami Swaroopanand, who was the Sankracharya of the Dwarka-Sharda Peeth in Gujarat and Jyotish Peeth in Uttrakhand, had been unwell for over a year, his aide said.

He breathed his last at his ashram in the Narsinghpur district around 3.30 p.m.,

Swami Swaroopanand

Swami Sadanand Maharaj, second-in-command (known as Dandi Swami) of the Dwarka Peeth, said.

He will be given a *bhoo samadhi* (burial) on the campus of the ashram on Monday, the release said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep sadness at his death and offered condolences to the seer's followers.

974 health workers died of COVID: Centre

Clear details are unavailable on health workers, including doctors, who died of the infection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

The Union government seems to be contradicting itself on the number of health workers, including doctors, who died while fighting COVID-19 in the past two-and-a-half years.

In the reply to a query under the Right to Information (RTI) Act filed with New India Assurance Company, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on September 8 that ₹487 crore had been disbursed as insurance compensation under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) scheme to 974 health workers who died in the line of duty fighting the pandemic as on September 1.

Under the PMGKP scheme, ₹50 lakh is given to each health worker. The query was filed by K.V. Babu, a Kannur-based ophthalmologist and an RTI activist.

Varying count | The table lists the date of response, the person/organisation which responded, the count of health workers who died and the compensation

Response date	Person responding	Compensation	Health workers who died in the line of duty
September 8, 2022	Health ministry to an RTI query	₹487 crore	974
August 2, 2022	Health ministry to an RTI query	₹222.5 crore	445*
February 8, 2022	Health minister to the Rajya Sabha	₹808 crore	1,616

*only doctors

While replying to a specific query on the break-up of the figures, the company said on September 9 that 206 of them were doctors and the compensation paid was ₹103 crore.

The other 768 health workers, including nurses, community workers and other staff, were paid ₹384 crore.

In another reply to an RTI query on August 2, the Ministry, however, told the company that 445 beneficiaries had been compensated, as on date, under the scheme "for the doctors who died due to COVID-19". The amount disbursed was ₹222.5 crore.

Discrepancy in figures

These numbers are different from the answers given by Union Ministers in Parliament earlier.

Asked about the State-wise figures of doctors and health workers who have died since March 2020, Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, had told the Rajya Sabha on July 26 that "disaggregated data on deaths due to COVID-19 by profession or otherwise is not maintained centrally".

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, had told the Rajya Sabha on February 8, 2022 that ₹808 crore had been disbursed to 1,616 beneficiaries, including doctors, under the PMGKP till January 31.

The data collected by the Indian Medical Association, however, say that around 1,800 doctors succumbed to the infection – 757 during the first wave, 839 during the second wave and the rest later.

"It is clear that the authorities neither have clear details about the doctors who succumbed to COVID-19 nor the total number of beneficiaries. It is a total mess," Dr. Babu said on Sunday.

'Bengal district had 122 farmer deaths in 2021'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A Right to Information (RTI) query has revealed that there were 122 farmer and farm-related suicides in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district in 2021. The West Bengal government has for the past several years maintained in public forums and the State Assembly that there has not been a single such suicide in the State.

In response to a query by RTI activist Biswanath Goswami on August 27, the State Public Information Officer & Deputy Superintendent of Police (D&T), Paschim Medinipur, provided the details of such suicides collected from 23 police stations across the district.

Only a few days ago, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) came out with two reports: *Crime In India, 2021* and *Accidental Deaths and Suicides (ADSI) in India, 2021*.

According to the NCRB findings, West Bengal recorded 13,500 suicides in 2021, which is the fourth highest in the country. However, the number of deaths due to suicides by farmers or people engaged in agricultural activities was zero. The ADSI report highlighted the same as well.

(The suicide prevention helpline numbers in Kolkata are as following: 033-24637401, 033-24637432)

Third stealth frigate of Project 17A *Taragiri* launched in Mumbai

Testing the waters: *Taragiri*, the third stealth frigate of the Navy's Project 17A, being launched in Mumbai on Sunday. • PTI

ABHINAY DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Taragiri, the third stealth frigate of the Project 17A, was launched on Sunday by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) here.

The ship has been built using integrated construction methodology which involves hull blocks construction in different geographical locations and integration/erection on slipway at MDL.

The keel of *Taragiri* was laid on September 10, 2020, and the ship is expected to be delivered by August 2025.

The vessel is being launched with an approximate launch weight of 3,510 tonnes and is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house design organisation – the Bureau of Naval Design.

The MDL had undertaken the detailed design and construction of the ship which was also overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team (Mumbai).

The first ship of Project 17A, *Nilgiri*, was launched on September 28, 2019, and is expected to begin sea trials in the first half of 2024.

According to the officials, the estimated cost of Project 17A is around ₹25,700 crore. The second ship of P17A class *Udaygiri* was launched on May 17 this year and is expected to start the sea trials during the second half of 2024. The keel of the fourth and the final ship was laid on June 28.

The ship, 149.02 metre long and 17.8 metre wide, is propelled by a CODOG combination of two gas turbines and two main diesel engines which are designed to achieve a speed of over 28 knots at a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes.

The steel used in the hull construction of P17A frigates is an indigenously developed DMR 249A which is a low carbon micro alloy grade steel manufactured by the SAIL.

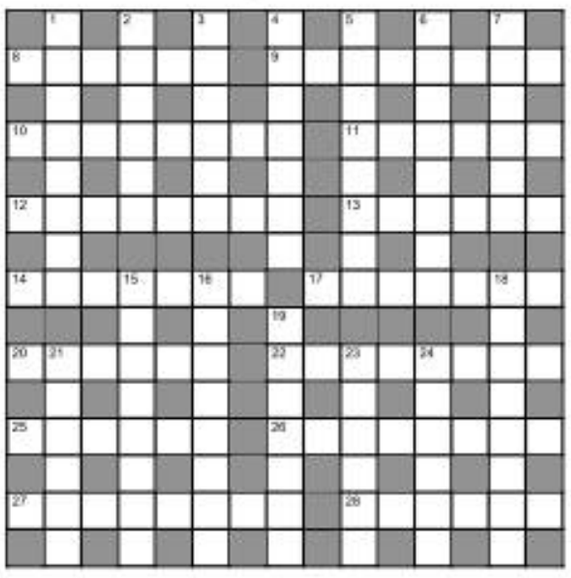
Officials said that the indigenously designed *Taragiri* will have a state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, an advanced action information system, an integrated platform management system, world class modular living spaces, a sophisticated power distribution system and a host of other advanced features.

"It will be fitted with a supersonic surface-to-surface missile system and the ship's air defence capability is designed to counter the threat of the enemy aircraft and the anti-ship cruise missiles would revolve around the vertical launch and long range surface to air missile system," the officials added.

TH CROSSWORD + 13658

(set by Dreamer)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*



Across

8 Poor lad is maltreated to some extent (6)
9 Top trips? (8)
10 An imaginary place of great opportunity located in Chesterfield or Adoni (8)
11 Dismisses energy flow outside cold surfaces, at first (6)
12 Locality in Virgin Islands – popular in town (8)
13 Start counter around end of duel (6)
14 Faint area outside borders of Yemen (7)
17 You primarily google "rocks" in study of the Earth (7)
20 Hot pepper from a raised area of land in Ivory Coast (6)
22 Volunteer heartlessly abandoned sweetheart (8)
25 Move bishop and risk a piece (6)
26 Tailored grey coat for class (8)
27 Retake from same user (8)
28 Part with wife at home for the time being (6)

Down

1 Crime made by very sick American Indian near Yorkshire, originally (8)
2 Doctor enthralled by sources of excess organic lipids in blood clots (6)
3 Aluminium, potassium and the greatest soluble base (6)
4 "Mopy town" – possibly not weak for name of a place (7)
5 A man breaks piping in a shaking state (8)
6 Spiritual English gangster hides in that place (8)
7 Computer program tackles independent chip relating to living organisms (6)
15 College graduate sadly smuggles crown of hazel tree (8)
16 Hard copy obtained from top rut? (8)
18 Regulator with extra plugs? Ignore after unwrapping (8)
19 Industrious person using small watch (7)
21 Violent young person and editor having half closed heavy eyelids (6)
23 "Now! Put crackers in residential area in city!" (6)
24 Stop following member's story (6)

SUDOKU

	4	9	5					3
7							8	1
3		2						
				7	1	2	6	
	8	3	2	6				
						1		4
9	6							2
2					4	9	3	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13657

I	D	E	N	T	I	F	Y	D
M	P	I	O			I	E	E
P	A	I	N	T	E	R	S	A
U	C	A	M	F	M	C	R	
G	R	E	E	N	U	N	L	E
N	N			L	A	R		O
	U	T	O	P	I	A	G	R
D	R	N				L	H	R
I	C	E	B	E	R	G	P	R
S			U	R	I		O	S
C	O	L	U	M	N	I	S	T
R	I	O	D		S	A	E	A
E	N	G	I	N	E	S	T	I
E	H	I			O	O	E	E
T	E	T	R	A	D	S	P	L

A	R	I	F	Y	R	I	V	E
I	N	T	E	R	S	A	G	A
E	E	N		U	N	L	E	A

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	6	7	4	8	3	1	2
1	8	3	9	5	2	4	7	6
2	4	7	3	1	6	8	5	9
8	9	4	1	7	3	6	2	5
6	3	1	4	2	5	7	9	8
5	7	2	8	6	9	1	3	4
3	6	9	2	8	1	5	4	7
4	2	5	6	3	7	9	8	1
7	1	8	5	9	4	2	6	3

FAITH

Yasoda's worry

The verses of the Azhvars must be read along with the commentaries written by Vaishnava Acharyas for us to fully understand the verses, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan, in a discourse.

Periyazhvar imagined himself to be Yasoda, and sang many verses any mother would sing to, and of her child. In one verse, Yasoda talks about the baby Krishna kicking at the cradle, and breaking it. Yasoda then picks up the baby, but the baby kicks so hard against her hip, that she is afraid her hip will break. The important line in the pasuram says "midukkilaamaiyaal melinden." Here Yasoda is saying that she is totally worn out. The normal interpretation that any of us would think of would be that Yasoda is unable to look after this troublesome child and is therefore tired. But Manavala Mamunigal gave a brilliant interpretation, which is most apt. Acharyas, before interpreting verses, would pay attention to the Azhvar who penned the verse. Each Azhvar enjoyed the Lord in different ways, and so any interpretation would have to match the experience of the respective Azhvars.

Periyazhvar sang verses to ward off evil eyes from the Lord, and showed his maternal attitude to the Lord. In the cradle verse, Yasoda is worried that people might be envious of the strength in little Krishna's legs. Imagine a child breaking a cradle, and then continuing to kick when seated on his mother's hip. What if someone commented on the child's stamina, with envy? Would that not harm the baby? So would have run Yasoda's thoughts, and that is the interpretation Manavala Mamunigal gives for the verse. Yasoda is not talking about fatigue resulting from looking after an energetic child. She is worried that Krishna's energy will attract evil eyes. Worrying about this, Yaoda has become tired!

ASK US

N. SREE KANTH

Q. My mother paid ₹50,000 TDS for FY2022-23. How to claim refund of this amount and up to how many years back one can claim refund, we haven't claimed any refund yet.

SAI KRISHNA

A. Payment of TDS is being assumed as receiving TDS credit on the amount paid to your mother by a person who is liable to deduct TDS on certain nature of payments. For FY22-23, the TDS so deposited on her behalf can be claimed post filing of the respective ITR which is to be filed by July 31, 2023, as tax credit on the tax that is due to be paid by her. If there is any TDS in excess of the tax that is due, the same can be claimed as refund. Every year's TDS credit can be claimed at the time of filing that year's respective ITR. For FY21-22, if there is any TDS on her credit, the same can be claimed once the taxes are paid and the respective ITR is filed within the due dates of the belated return (*the date of publishing of this answer is beyond 31st July 2022 which is the original due date of ITR filing*). For year's prior to that, ITR-U has been enabled to be filed for those ITRs which were not filed within the respective due dates. However, there are certain conditions in order to file ITR-U and attracts additional tax implications.

Q. I am a retired central govt. employee, aged 64 years. I want to sell out one of my properties, a vacant housing plot, to meet the expenses of my son's education (within India). Does it attract any tax, while selling out the property and how do I indicate in the income tax, as the cost of educational fee and the price of the property are expected to match closely.

PREM

A. Vacant housing plot is considered a capital asset and selling a capital asset attracts "Capital Gains" and is to be computed as per Section 48 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Reinvestment of the proceeds from the sale of a capital asset is exempt in a few cases when it is re-invested in a residential property and purchase of bonds subject to certain conditions. Selling of property for the purposes of meeting son's education is not covered under any exemption and due tax applicable would be attracted on such sale.

Q. I would like to have a clarification regarding tax filing for both husband and wife/housewife. We were NRIs in the past and have retired and come for good back to India 3 years ago. I used to fund her account for domestic expenses and hence has been filing tax returns /wife's account for past 7 years. Similarly, I am also filing returns. Since my wife's account interest is below taxable bracket can I discontinue her tax filing?

VIJAYAKRISHNAN AND GEETHA

A. Under Section 139 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, a person other than a company or firm is required to furnish a return of income if the total income is exceeding the maximum amount not chargeable to tax (basic exemption limit). You have stated that in your wife's case as the interest accrued is less than the basic exemption limit which mandates that ITR is not required to be filed for a particular year. However, as you have stated that you were NRIs in the past, it is to be checked that you do not hold any foreign assets, are not a signatory for a foreign account, or you do not derive foreign incomes in order to assess whether ITR is required to be filed or not. Further, there are certain other conditions such as spending more than ₹2 lakh in a year for a foreign trip, spending more than ₹1 lakh in a year for electricity consumption, depositing funds more than a prescribed limit in a savings bank account among others, which needs to be ascertained in order to determine whether an ITR is required to be filed. You may look into these conditions and take a call accordingly.

Q. I purchased a flat in July 2009 for ₹9,60,000. Thereafter in 2010-11, I carried out certain interior work costing me ₹1,85,000 (no bills in possession). Now, I've sold my flat for ₹26,00,000 (May 2022). An amount of ₹52,000 was paid as brokerage charge. Please advise me about the amount I need to pay as capital gain tax in this deal. I've no plan to invest in any capital gain schemes.

P.K. SURESH

A. The Capital Gains is to be computed in the following manner, first limb will consist of selling price less brokerage. Also, if the selling price is lesser than the guideline value, then the guideline value is to be replaced with the selling price. Kindly check with the Registrar's office in order to ascertain the guideline value of the UDS. Further, you will have to ascertain the value of the building depending on the characteristics cum amenities of the building on the basis of PWD rate. Total of the value of the UDS as per guideline value and the PWD rate valuation of the building will have to be compared with the selling price.

Second limb will consist of purchase cost plus registration costs which is to be adjusted with inflation (indexation) in case of Long Term Capital Asset. This is to be done with the aid of Cost Inflation Index (CII) released by the I-T department every assessment year. In order to claim Cost of Improvement as a deduction, the cost so incurred should be capital in nature. Cost of interior can be considered if it forms part of the building and also forms part of the flat that is being sold. It is also to be seen that payment for interior can be proved with bills and also through banking channels.

The difference of the first and second limbs, if positive, is Capital Gains and if not is Capital Loss. For properties held more than 24 months, it is Long Term Capital Gains/Loss. Long Term Capital Gains attract 20% tax plus applicable surcharge and cess. If the period of holding is less than 24 months, it would be considered as short term capital gains and would be taxed as per the tax slabs of the assessee.

(The adviser is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

How to worry better about your investments

There are aspects not within your control and there are events that do not change the fundamental quality of the investment. You need not worry about those

JOYDEEP SEN

In one of our earlier columns we had discussed how investors must sift from the info avalanche and focus on information and action. Today we will discuss, of all the relevant information flow, in the context of your investment portfolio, what you need to worry about and what not. The basic criterion is, if it can potentially have a deep and fundamental impact on your investments, you have to worry. Otherwise, it is noise, or relevant information which you can be aware of, but need not act upon. Let's look at it one by one in the current context.

Recession concerns

There are geo-political concerns emanating from the Russia-Ukraine war and sanctions imposed by certain countries on Russia. There are supply chain disruptions globally, and resources like crude oil, natural gas and fertilizers are relatively scarce now. Consequently, inflation is multi-year high across the world. To combat inflation, central banks all over the globe are raising interest rates. This is a double whammy. On top of resources being dearer, high interest rates are making economic activities more difficult. Global growth projections are being scaled down. There are forecasts of recession in the bellwether economy of USA. If global recession happens, or growth is impaired significantly, there would be an impact on India. In particular, our exports, as they are a function of global demand. To draw a parallel, during the pandemic phase of 2020, our exports had slowed considerably. If exports slow down, our GDP growth would also be impacted.

Should you be worried about it? Both yes and no. Significant global events do have an impact on your portfolio. However, one fact of life is, you do not have control over what is happening in the world. So why worry? And the other fact of life is, India is the growth story now, and in the days to come.

With positive or negative developments e.g. higher or lower exports, our growth rate will be impacted, but only so much. We are relatively better placed than other economies of the world, even the developed economies, to overcome these challenges. Moreover, data show that equity market returns from various countries such as USA, India, and China, when plotted year-wise, vary significantly, even in today's world of digital connectivity. When the situation is not clear, and there are limits on fresh investment in mutual funds investing abroad, you may wait out this phase.

Negative event

When you have exposure to equity stocks or bonds or any other instrument in a company, and there is a deterioration in the fundamental quality of the company, it is a cause for concern. Here the question is, you are not an investment professional and it is not your job to track everything. If you are doing it through a managed vehicle e.g. mutual fund or PMS, or you are advised by a professional advisor, then it is his/her job to track, or guide you.

If you are doing it yourself, while you may be worried, at the end of the day you are not an investment professional.

To be noted, some event or the other keep on happening every day. What we are discussing here is a deep deterioration and not a minor negative event played up by a section of the media. When you come across a news-flow about a particular company, you may enquire with your investment manager/advisor, but leave it with the professionals. This is not to say mistakes do not happen. Sometimes stock prices do come down or credit accidents do happen. However, to err is human, and professionals also so are humans. To draw a parallel, sometimes doctors may commit mistakes in a diagnosis or a pilot in landing an airplane. If you are doing it yourself, you have to handle it yourself.

Significant global events do have an impact on your portfolio. However, one fact of life is, you do not have control over what is happening in the world

Investment vehicle

Though this kind of event does not happen every day, this is something you have to be mindful of. To address this, there is SEBI, there are SEBI regulated investment vehicles, and there are investment vehicles not regulated by SEBI.

If you are investing through an investment vehicle which is not under SEBI purview, depending on the credentials, you should be either worried about, or at least be mindful of. Mutual funds, portfolio management services, alternative investment funds, etc., are SEBI regulated entities. There has never been any default in mutual funds in India. The credit accidents that have happened in the past such as . Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services and Dewan Housing Finance Ltd., are investment risks that are part of the game. On the other hand, many investors have lost money in non-regulated plantation schemes or collective schemes or Ponzi schemes.

Price stagnation

Sometimes it so happens that you have made an investment in an equity stock or real estate, and for a long period of time, the price goes nowhere. This is known as time correction. In price correction, the price of the investment falls, whereas in time correction, the price does not fall as such, but does not give you any return for a long period of time. It depends; sometimes it is not a cause for concern, just that the equity stock is taking time to be discovered or real estate is facing certain issues.

Conclusion

If you are not taking professional guidance, you may get confused by the information avalanche and how to act upon relevant inputs. There are aspects not within your control and there are events that do not change the fundamental quality of the investment. You need not worry about those. Otherwise, you may keep your antennae up.

(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)

THINK INVESTOR: SAFETY COVER

Security at just more than a rupee a day

Mass schemes could be a boon for financially stressed families that had received a blow like illness or death of an earning member

K NITYA KALYANI

Last week I dropped in at our old home and Lakshmi, who irons clothes on our street, peeked in curiously to say hello.

A quiet service provider over decades, she and her family work with a heavy coal-fired iron box on a pushcart. She collects washed clothes and hand delivers them hot from the iron, with a cheery waft of wood-coal smoke.

She never fails to mention how my mother eased her life by getting her a cooking gas connection those many years ago, and how she went the extra step personally taking her to the bank branch to introduce her for an account, enabling her to get an address proof and so on for the gas connection.

We take it for granted, but with this, Lakshmi could cook for the family, pack off dabbas for her school-going children, and still do early rounds to pick up clothes before people left for work.

She pulled out her bank passbook proudly to show me her healthy balance through her meagre yet disciplined savings. Tucked into the cover was a little photo of my mother, as her quiet mark of regard.

In our previous column, we saw a profile of mass insurance scheme under the Jan Dhan Yojana and some details about one of them, an old-age pension scheme called the Atal Pension Yojana.

Knowing about these schemes helps us participate in those that we are eligible for and fits our profile.

Over and above that, it helps us give timely tips and advice to those around us who may not know or trust insurance and other formal financial schemes due to poor information. Our household help and service providers like Lakshmi, for example.

What we take for granted, let us endeavour to guide and help others to get it.

Mass schemes can be a blessing from heaven for financially stressed families that receive shocking blows like illness or death of an earning member. An accident or even an expected retirement from employment changes finances and everyday life, and these are contingencies insurance can protect against.

Another angle that would be of interest is how much awareness these scheme had created among the beneficiaries about the benefits of insurance and whether that is leading them to buy insurance independently. That is, if they are part of a mass hospitalisation scheme, do they graduate to buying hospitalisation insurance independently as they progress in life.

Let us take a look at another personal insurance scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY).

The life insurance scheme called Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) is a one-year, annually renewable term policy for ₹2 lakh sum assured and a premium, currently, of ₹436 per year regardless of age and sometimes requiring just self-declaration of good health.

Any individual with a bank account, from age 18 to 50 can join and stay insured till age 55 as the premium is directly debited each year from the bank account.

The bank is the master policyholder and all those who enrol are members/insureds under the policy.

This makes joining, renewal, administration and claims easy under the policy. There is a pretty simple form for joining the scheme which includes a bank mandate for auto debit of the premium on a specified date, usually June 1.

Members will be covered up to age 55. Coverage will also cease if there are no funds to cover the premium on the due date or if the account is closed. In both cases, coverage can be restarted afresh with a caveat that any death claim except accidental death will not be admissible for the first 45 days of coverage. This is a term insurance and death claims will be paid to the nominee and there will be no maturity value or survival benefit.

The scheme is offered by many life insurance companies who have opted to do so. For the customer, almost all banks offer entry into the scheme through a simple savings bank account. A customer can participate in the scheme only once through one of his bank accounts. There are provisions for joint account holders to each avail of the cover. Non-resident Indians too can become members with an Indian bank account. The claims will only be paid in Indian Rupee.

Such one-size-fits-all, easy-to-join schemes have the advantage of sweeping in large numbers of insureds who, otherwise, may find it difficult or cumbersome to independently buy insurance. The premium rates and formalities are way more favourable too.

The third personal insurance policy under the JDY umbrella is a personal accident insurance scheme called Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). We will take a look at that in the next instalment along with the flagship Ayushman Bharat scheme.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

One-size-fits-all: Such schemes have the advantage of sweeping in large numbers of insureds who may find it tough to independently buy insurance. •GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
HDFC Bank	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Citibank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 2.75%
State Bank of India	10.30 -15.10	10,697-11,921	2,139-2,384	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	9.70 -17.05	10,550-12,440	2,110-2,488	Up to 2% (Min Rs 1,000 and Max Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	11.60-15.30	11,021-11,974	2,204-2,395	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	9.30-15.85	10,452-12,119	2,090-2,424	Up to 1%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Up to 3%
Bajaj Finserv	13.00 onwards	11,377 onwards	2,275 onwards	Up to 4%
South Indian Bank	11.75-19.50	11,059-13,108	2,212-2,622	Up to 2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.40-14.20	10,477-11,686	2,095-2,337	Up to 1%
Indian Overseas Bank	11.40-12.40	10,971-11,224	2,194-2,245	Up to 0.75%
Karnataka Bank	13.10	11,402	2,280	Up to 0.25% (Min Rs 250)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

NEW CAR LOAN-RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
Union Bank of India	8.20-9.40	10,186-10,477	Up to Rs. 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.05-8.90	10,150-10,355	NIL upto 30th September 2022
Bank of Baroda	7.95-11.25	10,126-10,934	0.50% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	8.30-11.00	10,210-10,871	0.25% (Rs 1,000-5,000)
Bank of India	8.25-9.95	10,198-10,611	NIL
UCO Bank	8.05	10,150	1% (Upto Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	7.80-8.65	10,090-10,294	NIL
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.20-11.70	10,186-11,047	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank	8.95	10,367	0.5% - 0.6% (Rs 500-Rs 10,000)
ICICI Bank	8.10 onwards	10,162 onwards	Rs 5,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.35 onwards	10,222 onwards	0.5% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.61-10.66	10,283-10,787	0.5% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Federal Bank	9.90	10,599	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Axis Bank	8.20-11.40	10,186-10,971	Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
South Indian Bank	10.55-12.00	10,759-11,122	1% (Max: Rs. 10,000)
City Union Bank	13.00-13.50	11,377-11,505	1% (Min: Rs 250)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.

Rates and charges as on September 9 — Source: Paisabazaar.com

Charles III proclaimed King of Australia

Similar ceremony held in New Zealand; Queen Elizabeth II's coffin begins final journey from Scotland

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ASSOCIATED PRESS
SYDNEY/LONDON

Royal ceremony: The band of the 3rd Battalion Royal Welsh, and its billy goat mascot, march to Cardiff Castle in southern Wales on Sunday, ahead of the proclamation ceremony, and, right, Queen Elizabeth II's coffin being taken through Scottish towns. • AFP

King Charles III was officially named monarch in Australia and New Zealand on Sunday, in tandem ceremonies marking his ascension to the throne.

In Canberra, Australia, Governor-General David Hurley proclaimed "Prince Charles Philip Arthur George to be King Charles III, by grace of God, King of Australia".

At a similar ceremony in Wellington, New Zealand, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern hailed Charles, saying he "has long had an affection for Aotearoa New Zealand, has consistently demonstrated his deep care for our nation".

The two ceremonies were relative formalities. Both former British colonies have been independent for decades but retain the monarch as their head of state.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that September 22 would be a public holiday in Australia to mark her death.

Final journey

Queen Elizabeth II's flag-draped coffin passed through the rugged Scottish countryside on Sunday on a final journey from her beloved summer estate Balmoral Castle to London, with mourners quietly lining roads and some tossing flowers to honour the monarch who died after 70 years on the throne.

The hearse drove past piles of bouquets and other tributes as it led a seven-car cortège from Balmoral, where the Queen died on Thursday.

The Queen's coffin was draped in the Royal Standard for Scotland and topped with a wreath made of flowers from the estate, including sweet peas, one of the Queen's favourites.

The coffin will take a circuitous journey back to the capital. On Monday, it will be taken to nearby St. Giles' Cathedral, where it will remain until Tuesday, when it will be flown to London.

The coffin will be moved to the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, until a state funeral on September 19.

9/11 memories still haunt as U.S. marks 21st anniversary

We will never forget, we will never give up, says Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Floral tributes: Flowers and U.S. flags seen on the 9/11 Memorial in New York, on Sunday. • AFP

Americans remembered 9/11 on Sunday with readings of victims' names, volunteer work and other tributes, 21 years after the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil.

A tolling bell and a moment of silence began the commemoration at ground zero in New York, where the World Trade Center's twin towers were destroyed by the hijacked-plane attacks of September 11, 2001.

Firefighter Jimmy Riches' namesake nephew wasn't born yet when his uncle died, but the boy took the podium to pay tribute to him. "You're always in my heart. And I know you are watching over me," he said after reading a portion of the nearly 3,000 victims' names.

President Joe Biden took part in a sombre wreath-laying ceremony at the Pentagon and paid tribute to "extraordinary Americans" who gave their lives on one of the nation's darkest days.

Mr. Biden noted that even after the United States had left Afghanistan that his administration continues to pursue those responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

Last month, Mr. Biden announced that the U.S. had killed al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, who helped plot the September 11 attacks, in a clandestine operation.

"We will never forget, we will never give up," Mr. Biden said. "Our commitment to preventing another attack on the United States is without end."

Sweden's centre-left in slim lead, exit poll shows

It indicates surge for right-wing parties

REUTERS
STOCKHOLM

Sweden's centre-left bloc looked set for a narrow victory over right-wing opponents, an exit poll showed after voting ended on Sunday, although the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats made gains and could become the second-largest party in Parliament.

The survey by public broadcaster *SVT* gave Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson's centre-left bloc 49.8% of the votes against 49.2% for the Opposition right-wing parties.

Opinion polls have shown the race too close to call throughout much of the campaign and exit polls can often differ from the final result.

A *TV4* poll on election day also showed the centre-left commanding a narrow lead.

Ms. Andersson's Social Democrats have been in power for eight years.

The campaign has seen parties battle to be the toughest on gang crime, after a steady rise in shootings that has unnerved voters, while surging inflation and the energy crisis following the invasion of Ukraine have increasingly taken centre stage.

'China must cooperate with Sri Lanka on debt restructure'

Political reform, economic recovery must go together: USAID Administrator

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

China must cooperate with Sri Lanka in its debt restructure process, Samantha Power, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), said on Sunday, while assuring Colombo of U.S. support.

Sri Lanka, which opted for a preemptive sovereign default in April amid a rapid downturn, must negotiate with its diverse creditors – International Sovereign Bond holders, multilateral agencies, bilateral creditors such as China, Japan, and India – and restructure its outstanding debt to them, in order to qualify for a $2.9-billion package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Comparable terms

Addressing a media conference at the end of her two-day visit, Ms. Power said: "The United States as a creditor, and as a member of the Paris Club, stands ready to participate in the restructuring of Sri Lanka's debt. It is imperative that all of Sri Lanka's creditors, most notably the People's Republic of China cooperate in this process openly and on comparable terms with each other."

Samantha Power

The observation appeared in line with her remarks in New Delhi in July, that "opaque" Chinese loans financing "headline-grabbing" infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka had contributed to the island nation's crisis.

It also echoed India's statement after Sri Lanka reached a staff-level agreement with the IMF that "creditor equitability and transparency are important".

Creditors, she said, had the chance to make "a very positive difference and relieve Sri Lanka of some of its acute debt distress". During Ms. Power's visit, the USAID pledged $60 million towards fertilizers for farmers and emergency humanitarian assistance.

Further, Ms. Power said her delegation underscored to the Sri Lankan leadership that political reform and accountability must go "hand in hand" with economic recovery.

"What we stressed is, given the demands and the aspirations of the Sri Lankan people, the importance of being transparent about that road map about those intentions, and making sure that the political reform is not somehow portrayed, as it is by some, [as being] in tension with economic stability."

Clipping powers

President Ranil Wickremesinghe's office, in a statement following the meeting, said he outlined the government's plans to enact legislation aimed at clipping the Executive's powers, a new law against terrorism, and electoral reforms.

On the U.S.'s engagement at the UN Human Rights Council, where a resolution on Sri Lanka is expected soon, Ms. Power said it was "very clear on the ground" that the aspirations of those who survived the long civil war, seeking justice, and to secure "basic facts and basic truth" about missing persons remain, despite "multiple attempts" and processes to generate progress.

"So it is in that spirit that the United States engages as part of the core group [on Sri Lanka] in Geneva," said Ms. Power.

"As somebody who has travelled and met with survivors of the violence and seen as so many mothers still carrying the photos of their children who have gone missing, I would say that any step that can be made to offer solace to families who have endured, the kind of violence and suffering that that has occurred in this country, is important for us all to stand behind," she said.

SPORT

Ahamed, Arunagiri claim a double each

Rohan and Lani register victories in the novice and girls' Stock 165cc

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

In the fast lane: Arunagiri en route to winning the Pro-Stock 165cc Open Race-2. *Right*: Lani, who topped the girls (Stock 165cc) contest. • SPECIAL ARRANGMENT

K.Y. Ahamed and Prabhu Arunagiri notched up a double each while Rohan Ramesh (Axor Sparks Racing) and Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR Castrol Power1) scored contrasting victories as the fourth round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022 concluded at the Madras International Circuit (MIC), here on Sunday.

Ahamed, the winner of race one on Saturday, led a 1-2 finish for Petronas TVS Racing in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category while Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha) ground out a thrilling win, his second of the weekend, in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open class.

The fifth and final round will be held from September 30 to Oct. 2 at the MIC.

Provisional results (all six laps unless mentioned):

National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-2, 8 laps): 1. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing) 15min, 12.117s; 2. Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing) 15:12.208; 3. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1) 15:22.655.

Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-2, 8 laps): 1. Prabhu Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha) 15:46.872; 2. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing) 15:47.054; 3. K.Y. Ahamed (15:47.342).

Novice (Stock 165cc, Race-2): 1. Rohan Ramesh (Axor Sparks Racing) 13:06.392; 2. Sarvesh Balappa (Axor) 13:06.633; 3. P. Vignesh Goud (Private) 13:07.152.

Girls (Stock 165cc, 5 laps): 1. Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR) 10:58.104; 2. Jagruti Penkar (Axor) 10:58.298; 3. Jagathishree (Pacer) 11:05.958.

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup — NSF 250R (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Kavin Quintal (18:25.485); 2. P. Mohsin (18:46.045); 3. Shyam Sundar (18:46.212).

Novice (CBR 150, Race-2): 1. Raheesh Mudassar Khatri (12:55.276); 2. Siddesh Sawant (12:55.991); 3. Rajender Beedani (13:12.555).

Hornet 2.0 (Support event, Race-2): 1. Allwin Xavier (13:30.607); 2. G. Balaji (13:31.402); 3. Romario John (13:31.405).

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship — Open (Apache RR 310, Race-1): 1. Rahil Pillarisetty (11:43.069); 2. P. Ananthraj (11:43.111); 3. I. Venkatesan (11:44.644). **Race-2:** 1. Rahil Pillarisetty (11:46.580); 2. P. Mohan Babu (11:49.351); 3. P. Ananthraj (11:49.353).

Rookie (Apache RTR 200, Race-2): 1. Chiranth Vishwanath (12:36.605); 2. R.S. Abdul Basim (12:44.161); 3. Shreyas Hareesh (12:52.597).

Theon wins feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer Pesi Shroff's ward Theon, ridden by P.S. Chouhan, justified his favouritism by winning the President Of India Gold Cup, the main event of Sunday's (Sept. 11) races here. The winner is owned by Ms. Ameeta Mehra & Mrs. Liane Mlian Luthria.

THE RESULTS:

1. MEDAK PLATE (1,400m), md. 3-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **DREAM STATION** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Cash Register (Chouhan) 2, Ok Boss (Santosh Raj) 3 and Baisa (Kiran Naidu) 4. Not run: Challenger. 1-1/2, 1-1/4 and 2. 1m 28. 95s. ₹18 (w), 12, 12 and 25 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 43, SHW: 14 and 10, FP: 51, Q: 27, Tanala: 170. Favourite: Dream Station. Owner: Mr. Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

2. TUDOR JET PLATE (1,800m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **CITY CRUISE** (Nakhat Singh) 1, Hero Of The East (Akshay Kumar) 2, Carnival Lady (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Sergeant Reckless (Kiran Naidu) 4. Hd, 4-3/4 and 3/4. 1m 56. 52s. ₹326 (w), 53, 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 40, SHW: 140 and 13, FP: 1,429, Q: 437, Tanala: 3,359. Favourite: Voice Of A Dream. Owner: Mr. Al. Murugappan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

3. ROCK OF GIBRALTAR PLATE (1,800m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III): **QUEEN BLOSSOM** (Md. Ismail) 1, Amalfitana (Chouhan) 2, Call Of The Blue (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Neffereti (P. Vikram) 4. 4, 2-1/2 and 4. 1m 58. 96s. ₹27 (w), 13, 12 and 23 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 66, SHW: 15 and 15, FP: 72, Q: 36, Tanala: 281. Favourite: Amalfitana. Owners: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla & Mr. Ramachandra Raju Manthena. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

4. PRESIDENT OF INDIA GOLD CUP (Gr. 2), (2,400m), (Terms), 4-y-o & upward: **THEON** (Chouhan) 1, Pissarro (Trevor) 2 and N R I Infinity (Akshay Kumar) 3. 9-1/2 and Dist. 2m 34. 53s. ₹12 (w), SHP: 14. FP: 14. Favourite: Theon. **OWNERS:** Ms. Ameeta Mehra & Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria. **TRAINER:** P. Shroff.

5. TELANGANA AND ANDHRA SUB AREA TROPHY (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **STAG'S LEAP** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Fatuma (P. Gaddam) 2, Carlisle (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Divine Connection (R.S. Jodha) 4. 2, 1-1/4 and 3. 1m 15. 84s. ₹17 (w), 12, 43 and 19 (p). SHP: 149, THP: 39, SHW: 14 and 113, FP: 320, Q: 268, Tanala: 2,283. Favourite: Stag's Leap. Owner: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping LLP. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. RED SURPRISE PLATE (1,200m), (Terms), Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **DYANOOSH** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Yaletown (Chouhan) 2, Once I Come (Kiran Naidu) 3 and Acrobat (Surya Prakash) 4. 1-1/2, 1 and 1-1/4. 1m 16. 75s. ₹21 (w), 12, 12 and 62 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 209, SHW: 16 and 11, FP: 45, Q: 18, Tanala: 747. Favourite: Yaletown. Owners: Mr. Sardar Jivtesh Singh, Mr. Md. Sultan & Mr. M. Praveen Kumar. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹9,484 (17 tkts.); 30%: ₹1, 606 (43 tkts.).
Mini jackpot: ₹7,063 (9 tkts.).
Treble : (i): 1,461 (10 tkts.); (ii): 54 (1,036 tkts.).

Barcelona crushes Cadiz

Robert the menace: Lewandowski has been in sizzling form, scoring goals or setting them up. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Barcelona registered a 4-0 win over bottom-placed Cadiz in a match interrupted by a medical emergency in the stands on Saturday.

Frenkie de Jong provided the breakthrough in the 55th minute before Polish striker Robert Lewandowski doubled the advantage 10 minutes later. Lewandowski now has six goals in five La Liga matches. Barcelona scored two more late on.

The match was halted in the 82nd minute because of a presumed heart attack in the stands. Cadiz 'keeper Jeremias Ledesma grabbed a defibrillator from the team bench and sprinted across the pitch to throw it to emergency staff in the stands.

The results: Sunday: LaLiga: Real Madrid 4 (Valverde 45+3, Vinicius 72, Rodrygo 89, Rudiger 90+3) bt Real Mallorca 1 (Muriqi 35); **Serie A:** Atalanta 1 (Demiral 74) drew with Cremonese 1 (Valeri 78).

Saturday: LaLiga: Cadiz 0 lost to Barcelona 4 (De Jong 55, Lewandowski 65, Fati 86, Dembele 90+2); **Serie A:** Inter Milan 1 (Brozovic 89) bt Torino 0; Napoli 1 (Raspadori 89) bt Spezia 0; Sampdoria 1 (Djuricic 57) lost to AC Milan 2 (Messias 6, Giroud 67-pen).

'Test' drawn with little play on final day

NZ-A IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
HUBBALLI

As he steamed in from the Pavilion End at the KSCA Stadium on Sunday afternoon, a train was speeding on the nearby railway track. Umran Malik, in all probability, would have bowled quicker than the speed of the train, the ball whizzing past opener Rachin Ravindra.

But unfortunately, the Jammu Express' spell lasted only three overs, much to the disappointment of the goodly crowd.

Just 12.5 overs were possible on the final day of the second 'Test' between India-A and New Zealand-A, as the rains returned with a vengeance. The visiting side had scored 39 for two. India-A declared its overnight total of 229 for six.

The New Zealand-A inning began with Joe Carter, tucking Shardul Thakur into deep fine leg for a boundary. But he was caught behind off Mukesh Kumar and then Shardul removed Dane Cleaver.

The scores: India-A — 1st Innings: 229 for six decl.

New Zealand-A — 1st Innings: Joe Carter c Bharat b Mukesh 17, Rachin Ravindra (not out) 14, Dane Cleaver c Tilak b Shardul 1, Mark Chapman (not out) 0; Extras (lb-4, nb-3): 7; Total (for two wkts. in 12.5 overs) 39.

To no avail: Not seeing much of Umran in action would have disappointed the crowd. • KIRAN BAKALE

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-39.

India-A bowling: Shardul 6.5-3-19-1, Umran 3-1-14-0, Mukesh 3-1-2-1.

Stewart hat-trick takes Mumbai City to semis

The Islanders prevail over Chennaiyin FC in extra time

DURAND CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Scottish striker Greg Stewart scored a brilliant hat-trick as Mumbai City FC prevailed over Chennaiyin FC 5-3 in extra time in a thrilling quarterfinal to storm into the last-four stage of the Durand Cup football tournament here on Sunday.

Stewart scored in the 40th, 100th and 118th minute while Lallianzuala Chhangte got a brace in the 78th and 94th minute for the Mumbai side at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan.

Croatian striker Petar Sliskovic (59th), Jockson Dhas (89th) and Rahim Ali (112nd) scored for Chennaiyin. The Islanders face Mohammedan Sporting in the first semifinal at the same venue on Wednesday.

Karikari injured

Chennaiyin's Ghanaian striker Kwame Karikari got injured during play and had to be replaced by Rahim Ali in the 19th minute of the game.

The first goal of the match came off a penalty awarded to Mumbai when Ahmed Jahouh played Amay Ranawade through inside the box and keeper Debjit brought him down.

Stewart took the kick and although Debjit guessed right and got his hands to it, could not prevent the ball from going into the back of the net.

Mumbai coach Des Buckingham made his moves bringing in Mourtada Fall for the first time in the season and Gurkirat in place of Mehtab and Rippol. Brdaric also replaced Aakash Sangwan with Sajid Dhot.

Stewart. • DEBASISH BHADURI

Sri Lanka battles back from the brink, emerges Asian champion

Rajapaksa and Hasaranga rescue the team from a precarious 58 for five before the latter combines with Madushan to derail Pakistan's chase

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

Pakistan captain Babar Azam wore a big smile when he won the toss in the final of the Asia Cup against Sri Lanka here on Sunday. Babar had no hesitation asking Sri Lanka to bat, given that chasing has proven to be a winning formula in this tournament.

Sri Lanka, however, incredibly managed to defy the odds to come out on top by 23 runs. The Lankans first fought hard to post a respectable 170 for six, before bowling and fielding with verve to romp home.

Pakistan's descent began when mainstay Mohammad Rizwan fell for 55, taken at deep midwicket off spinner Wanindu Hasaranga. Rizwan was forced to try the big hits, as the required rate was getting out of control. In the same over, Hasaranga scalped Asif Ali and Khushdil Shah to seal the issue.

Medium pacer Pramod Madushan, playing his second T20I, picked up three top-order wickets.

Earlier, a terrific unbeaten 71 from Bhanuka Rajapaksa pulled Sri Lanka out of a hole. The Islanders looked in deep trouble at 58 for five, before Rajapaksa and Hasaranga (36, 21b, 5x4, 1x6) repaired the damage with a 58-run sixth-wicket stand.

Hasaranga was the early aggressor, hitting pacer Mohammad Hasnain for a four and a six in the 13th over. He was dismissed by Haris Rauf soon after, making too much room and getting an edge.

Rajapaksa used timing and clean strokes to find the runs. He received a life on 45, when Shadab Khan ran into Asif Ali and spilled a regulation high catch at deep midwicket. The duo somehow managed to pop the ball over the fence to concede a six.

The Pakistan fast bowlers dominated proceedings at the start of the match. Naseem Shah produced a sharp, unplayable inswinger in the first over to rattle Kusal Mendis' stumps. Rauf hurried Pathum Nissanka into playing a false shot, and beat Danushka Gunathilaka for pace. Even the spinners got among the wickets, with Iftikhar Ahmed and Shadab taking out Dhananjaya de Silva and Dasun Shanaka. From here, Sri Lanka desperately needed to rebuild. Rajapaksa answered the call and scripted a remarkable turnaround.

Glittering show: It was a night to remember for the Islanders as they rose to the occasion when it mattered most. •AFP

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka c Babar b Rauf 8 *(11b, 1x4)*, Kusal Mendis b Naseem 0 *(1b)*, Dhananjaya de Silva c & b Iftikhar 28 *(21b, 4x4)*, Danushka Gunathilaka b Rauf 1 *(4b)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa (not out) 71 *(45b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Dasun Shanaka b Shadab 2 *(3b)*, Wanindu Hasaranga c Rizwan b Rauf 36 *(21b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Chamika Karunaratne (not out) 14 *(14b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-7, w-2): 10; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 170.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Mendis, 0.3 ov), 2-23 (Nissanka, 3.2), 3-36 (Gunathilaka, 5.1), 4-53 (Dhananjaya, 7.4), 5-58 (Shanaka, 8.5), 6-116 (Hasaranga, 14.5).

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Naseem 4-0-40-1, Hasnain 4-0-41-0, Rauf 4-0-29-3, Shadab 4-0-28-1, Iftikhar 3-0-21-1, Nawaz 1-0-3-0.

PAKISTAN

Mohammad Rizwan c Gunathilaka b Hasaranga 55 *(49b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Babar Azam c Madushanka b Madushan 5 *(6b)*, Fakhar Zaman b Madushan 0 *(1b)*, Iftikhar Ahmed c sub (Bandara) b Madushan 32 *(31b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Mohammad Nawaz c Madushan b Karunaratne 6 *(9b)*, Khushdil Shah c Theekshana b Hasaranga 2 *(4b)*, Asif Ali b Hasaranga 0 *(1b)*, Shadab Khan c Gunathilaka b Theekshana 8 *(6b, 1x4)*, Haris Rauf b Karunaratne 13 *(9b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Naseem Shah c Karunaratne b Madushan 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Mohammad Hasnain (not out) 8 *(4b, 1x6)*; Extras (w-12, nb-2): 14; Total (in 20 overs): 147.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Babar, 3.2), 2-22 (Zaman, 3.3), 3-93 (Iftikhar, 13.2), 4-102 (Nawaz, 15.2), 5-110 (Rizwan, 16.1), 6-111 (Asif, 16.3), 7-112 (Khushdil, 16.5), 8-120 (Shadab, 17.6), 9-125 (Naseem, 18.2).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Madushanka 3-0-24-0, Theekshana 4-0-25-1, Madushan 4-0-34-4, Hasaranga 4-0-27-3, Karunaratne 4-0-33-2, Dhananjaya 1-0-4-0.

Toss: Pakistan.

Man-of-the-match: Rajapaksa.

Man-of-the-series: Hasaranga.

Sri Lanka won by 23 runs.

England eyes series win

SA IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Zak Crawley's dynamic unbeaten fifty took England to the brink of a series-clinching win over South Africa in the third Test at The Oval on Sunday.

England was 97 for no loss at stumps, needing just 33 more runs to reach a modest target of 130 on Monday's final day, when spectators will be let in for free, and take the three-match contest 2-1.

The often-struggling duo of Alex Lees and Crawley finished the day with unbeaten 32 and 57 respectively.

Earlier, South Africa was dismissed for 169 – the highest total so far of a low-scoring match – in its second innings. England skipper Ben Stokes claimed three for 39, while Stuart Broad took three for 45.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa – 1st innings: 118.
England – 1st innings: Alex Lees b Jansen 13, Zak Crawley b Jansen 5, Ollie Pope c Verreynne b Rabada 67, Joe Root c Petersen b Jansen 23, Harry Brook c Rabada b Jansen 12, Ben Stokes c Erwee b Nortje 6, Ben Foakes c Petersen b Jansen 14, Stuart Broad c Verreynne b Rabada 6, Ollie Robinson c Elgar b Rabada 3, Jack Leach b Rabada 0, James Anderson (not out) 0; Extras (b-1, lb-1, nb-7): 9; Total (in 36.2 overs): 158.
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-43, 3-84, 4-107, 5-129, 6-133, 7-151, 8-155, 9-158.
South Africa bowling: Rabada 13-1-81-4, Jansen 12.2-2-35-5, Mulder 2-0-11-0, Nortje 9-0-29-1.
South Africa – 2nd innings: Sarel Erwee c Root b Stokes 26, Dean Elgar lbw b Broad 36, Keegan Petersen c Pope b Anderson 23, Ryan Rickleton lbw b Broad 8, Khaya Zondo lbw b Robinson 16, Wiaan Mulder b Robinson 14, Kyle Verreynne c & B Anderson 12, Marco Jansen b Stokes 4, Kagiso Rabada c Brook b Stokes 0, Keshav Maharaj b Broad 18, Anrich Nortje (not out) 0; Extras (b-4, lb-4, nb-4): 12; Total (in 56.2): 169.
Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-83, 3-91, 4-95, 5-120, 6-133, 7-146, 8-146, 9-169.
England bowling: Anderson 15.2-4-37-2, Robinson 15-5-40-2, Broad 13-2-45-3, Stokes 13-2-39-3.
England – 2nd innings: Alex Lees (batting) 32, Zak Crawley (batting) 57; Extras (lb-5, nb-3): 8; Total (for no loss in 17 overs): 97.
South Africa bowling: Rabada 8-1-41-0, Jansen 5-0-24-0, Nortje 4-0-27-0.

Atit, Shams get some batting practice

West's big lead had virtually sealed the match on third day

Keen listeners: Rahane shares his knowledge with the young North East players. •K. PICHUMANI

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

All-rounders Atit Sheth (102 n.o., 101b, 10x4, 1x6) and Shams Mulani (97, 115b, 12x4) starred for West Zone with the bat, getting some valuable runs under their belt on the final day of the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal match against North East Zone on Sunday that ended in a draw.

The tie was virtually sealed on the third day when West took a 355-run first innings lead.

The fourth day's play at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium was just an opportunity for the West Zone batters who did not get a chance in the first innings to spend some time in the middle.

Mulani, who was dropped on 22 at the stroke of lunch, changed gears in the second session.

The left-hander missed a century when he tried to work a delivery from Bishworjit to the leg-side only to get a leading edge and give a simple return catch to the bowler. Atit reached his century with a lofted shot over covers off Ankur Malik.

The scores:
West Zone – 1st innings: 590/2 decl.
North East Zone – 1st innings: 235.
West Zone – 2nd innings: Het Patel b Dippu 7, Rahul Tripathi c Ashish Thapa b Dippu 24, Hardik Tamore c (sub) b Dippu 24, Chirag Jani b Bishworjit 4, Shams Mulani c & b Bishworjit 97, Atit Sheth (not out) 102, Jaydev Unadkat (not out) 1; Extras (b-6, lb-1, nb-2): 9; Total (for five wkts in 64.3 overs decl.): 268.
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-40, 3-49, 4-65, 5-244.
North East Zone bowling: Dippu 20-4-70-3, Rex 10-2-22-0, Bishworjit 12-1-39-2, Singha 6-0-21-0, Jonathan 10-0-70-0, Ankur 6.3-0-39-0.
MoM: Yashaswi Jaiswal.

Match drawn, West Zone won on first-innings lead. In the semifinals, West will meet Central at Coimbatore (Sept. 15-18).

North Zone makes the grade

Shahbaz Ahmed's all-round show the saving grace for East

S. DINAKAR
PUDUCHERRY

East Zone's talented Shahbaz Ahmed, rebounding from a hand injury sustained on day three, impressed with a five-for of heart and skill on an unresponsive pitch. Yet, despite North easing past East's first innings 397 and finishing at 545 to enter the Duleep Trophy semifinal on day four at the CAP ground on Sunday, a big question mark remained.

A wrong move?

It pertained to the use of the Kookaburra ball in this prestigious competition. Somewhere the BCCI appears to have got its plans to acclimatise our domestic cricketers with the Kookaburra ball, all wrong.

To make them play with the Kookaburra on pitches loaded with runs has little value.

With Kookaburra, it is imperative to strike with the new ball, so the surface needs to have pace, lift and movement with bounce being the most crucial aspect.

The Kookaburra ball, unlike the Duke or SG balls, has a diffused seam, and bowling, pace or spin, becomes a hard job as the innings progresses and the seam becomes less prominent unless the pitch offers assistance.

Shahbaz Ahmed. •S.S. KUMAR

But here the opposite has happened. The pitch was grassy 10 days ago, after that it was continually rolled by BCCI's neutral curator, so much so that the grass became dead and lifeless. Consequently, the bowlers have toiled on this barren surface.

The scores:
East Zone – 1st innings: 397.
North Zone – 1st innings: Yash Dhull b Murasingh 193, Manan Vohra st Porel b Shahbaz Nadeem 44, Dhruv Shorey b Akash Deep 81, Mandeep Singh c Porel b Shahbaz Ahmed 63, Himanshu Rana st Porel b Shahbaz Ahmed 81, Nishant Sindhu c Akash Deep b Shahbaz Ahmed 22, Anmol Malhotra c Porel b Shahbaz Ahmed 1, Pulkit Narang lbw b Shahbaz Ahmed 8, Siddharth Kaul c Porel b Parag 8, Jagjit Sandhu st Porel b Shahbaz Nadeem 18, Navdeep Saini (not out) 2; Extras (b-9, nb-15) 24; Total (in 148.5 overs) 545.
Fall of wickets: 1-128, 2-320, 3-348, 4-479, 5-486, 6-489, 7-511, 8-522, 9-533.
East bowling: Ishan Porel 21-3-74-0, Murasingh 25-3-70-1, Akash Deep 22-3-89-1, Shahbaz Nadeem 39.5-4-124-2, Shahbaz Ahmed 19.4-1-86-5, Parag 17-1-78-0, Tiwary 0.2-0-2.0, Majumdar 4-0-13-0.
East Zone – 2nd innings: Riyan Parag c Mandeep c Jagjit 13, Manoj Tiwary c Malhotra b Saini 10, Virat c Malhotra b Narang 7, Abhishek Porel (not out) 50, Anustup Majumdar (not out) 21; Extras (nb-1); Total (for three wkts. in 21 overs): 102.
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-29, 3-47.
North Zone bowling: Saini 4-0-24-1, Jagjit 5-0-27-1, Narang 7-0-21-1, Dhull 2-0-15-0, Sindhu 2-0-14-0, Rana 1-0-1-0.
Man-of-the-Match: Yash Dhull.

North to meet South in semifinal at Salem from Sept. 15 to 18.

England thrashes India in first T20I

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHESTER-LE-STREET

The Indian women's cricket team failed to click with both bat and ball, proving to be no match against a dominant England in a nine-wicket drubbing in the first T20I here on Saturday.

Put in, the Indian batters came a cropper against leg-spinner Sarah Glenn and were restricted to 132 for seven.

Glenn shines

Glenn finished with excellent figures of four for 23 and posed problems for the Indian batters throughout.

Later, riding her luck, Sophia Dunkley raced to a 44-ball 61 to complete the chase in just 13 overs.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma top-scored for India with a 29-ball 24 and the second best score was 23 by opener Smriti Mandhana in the wet conditions. In between, captain Harmanpreet Kaur blazed to 20 off 16 balls before being bowled by Glenn. That summed up India's batting.

The scores: India 132/7 in 20 overs (Deepti Sharma 29 n.o., Sarah Glenn 4/23) lost to England 134/1 in 13 overs (Sophia Dunkley 61 n.o., Alice Capsey 32 n.o.).

Second T20I: Sept. 13, Derby (D/N), 11 p.m. IST.

Swiatek the queen of New York

Another agonising miss for history-chasing Jabeur

Relentless: Swiatek won her second Grand Slam trophy of 2022 and third overall. •AFP

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Iga Swiatek surged to the third Grand Slam title of her career with a maiden victory at the U.S. Open on Saturday, defeating Tunisia's Ons Jabeur 6-2, 7-6(5) to extend her remarkable finals winning streak.

The 21-year-old World No. 1 from Poland saw off a second-set fightback from history-chasing Jabeur to prevail in one hour and 52 minutes at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The win was Swiatek's second Grand Slam title of 2022 to set alongside her French Open victory in June, which followed her maiden Grand Slam win at Roland Garros in 2020.

Swiatek's victory was her 10th straight win in a final. She is unbeaten in finals since suffering a lone reverse in her first WTA final in Lugano three years ago. She collapsed on court in relief after a win that saw her pocket $2.6 million in prize money.

"I wasn't sure if I was on the level yet to win actually a Grand Slam, especially at the US Open where the surface is so fast," she said. "It's something that I wasn't expecting for sure. It's also like a confirmation for me that the sky is the limit."

The loss was another agonising near-miss for Jabeur, who had been bidding to become the first woman from Africa to win a Grand Slam title. The 28-year-old from Tunis had also been beaten in the final of Wimbledon in July.

"I have nothing to regret because I did everything possible," said Jabeur. "I'm not someone that's going to give up. I am sure I'm going to be in the final again and I will try my best to win it."

Jabeur impressed en route to the final, dropping only a single set and stitching together a string of assured performances.

But she was in trouble almost from the get-go against the clinical Swiatek, who was into her stride quickly with her serve and signature forehand functioning smoothly.

THE RESULTS

Final: Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt 5-Jabeur (Tun) 6-2, 7-6(5).
Mixed doubles: 4-Storm Sanders & John Peers (Aus) bt Kirsten Flipkens & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Bel/Fra) 4-6, 6-4, [10-7].

Can Chennai Open spark an Indian revival?

Ankita Raina and Karman Thandi will look to cash in on home advantage

N. SUDARSHAN
CHENNAI

For a city that considers itself the soul of the sport in the country, five and a half years is a long time without big-ticket tennis. The Tamil Nadu capital witnessed its last Tour-level event in 2017 – the ATP Chennai Open – snapping a golden run of 21 straight years of high-quality action.

This drought is set to end when the WTA Chennai Open gets underway here on Monday.

"It was important to get the buzz back in the city," said Vijay Amritraj, Indian tennis legend and president of the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association, the host of the event. "It was critical that we showed the girls that we cared for them too."

But the tournament comes at a disconcerting time for Indian tennis. Even as non-cricketing sporting heroes of multiple hues have started emerging, tennis has not marched in tow.

There isn't an Indian singles player - male or female - ranked in the world's top-200. Among women, Sania Mirza remains the last one to have breached the top-100, a feat achieved more than 15 years ago.

Sania has since carried the flag admirably in doubles, but with her retirement imminent, and there being no high-quality pecking order below, even mere participation at top-level tournaments will start looking like success.

Swing time: Ankita will be eager to put up a good show. •R. RAVINDRAN

The search for a figurehead is not expected to end in Chennai, but if the tournament can spark interest among young girls, it would have served its purpose.

"WTA Tour-level tennis is outstanding," said Amritraj. "These events will teach you what it takes to be there, like how to be strong in the third set. The ball-striking, the strategies involved, the mental IQ are all high standard."

One player who fits the bill – apart from top seed Alison Riske-Amritraj – is Canadian Eugene Bouchard. The 28-year-old is unranked after a string of injuries and needed a wild card but she is a former Wimbledon finalist (2014) and top-five player.

Karman Thandi, one of two Indians in the main draw, practised with Bouchard on Saturday. Any lesson imbibed is sure to come in handy in her opening round encounter against France's Chloe Paquet.

Ankita Raina, the other Indian in the fray, has a tough opener against Germany's Tatjana Maria. The 35-year-old mother of two is an inspirational figure, having made an irresistible run to the Wimbledon semifinals.

"I will try and make the best use of the opportunity," Ankita said. "It will be a great experience. These are the players who play the main draws at Slams. That's where you want to be."

Whether the Indians belong will be evident over the course of the week.

Monday's order of play

- *Centre Court*
- Joanne Zuger (Sui) vs. Eugene Bouchard (Can)
- Chloe Paquet (Fra) vs. Karman Thandi
- Rebecca Peterson (Swe) vs. Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva (And)

Tata Open back to January

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tata Open Maharashtra, India's lone ATP 250 event, is set to regain its coveted start-of-the-season slot for the 2023 edition.

Ever since the ATP Cup took over the early season window starting 2020, Pune has had to shift dates to the week just after the Australian Open.

The 2023 edition in Pune will in all likelihood run parallel to the ATP Cup, with the qualifying rounds likely to start on December 31.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs South Africa: 3rd Test, day 5, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
WTA Chennai Open: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 p.m. onwards
Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 6 p.m.
RSWS 2022: Colors Cineplex, Colors Cineplex Superhits (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Scheffler voted PGA Tour Player-of-the-Year

WASHINGTON

Top-ranked Scottie Scheffler, who won four titles this year including his first Major crown at the Masters, was on Saturday named the 2021-2022 PGA Tour Player-of-the-Year. The 26-year-old American won with 89% vote from Tour players. Australia's Cameron Smith, the World No. 2 who has joined the LIV Golf Series, and Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy were the other finalists for the award. AFP

TT event at National Games advanced

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GANDHINAGAR

The table tennis competition of the National Games will be staged well before the opening ceremony on September 29 to ensure the presence of World Championship-bound stars, including Sharath Kamal, G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra.

The trio will be among the earliest athletes in action in the 36th National Games in Gujarat as the Organising Committee decided to conduct the table tennis competition from Sept. 20-24. The schedule had to be advanced as the World Championship begins in Chengdu, China, on Sept. 30.

India's top athletes in 37 disciplines will line up for their respective states at the National Games.

The National Games will be staged in six cities of Gujarat – Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar. New Delhi will host the cycling track competition.

Daruvala races to his fourth win

It is his first this season and maiden feature race victory in F2

FORMULA 2

SPORTS BUREAU
MONZA

India's Jehan Daruvala raced to his fourth Formula 2 win in the championship's feature race at Italy's Monza race track on Sunday.

The 23-year-old started sixth on the grid but used a mix of strategy, race craft and tyre management to capitalise on a safety car and red flag-interrupted race and clinch a comfortable win around the hallowed 'Temple of Speed'.

The win was Jehan's first this season and his maiden feature race win in F2.

It comes after the Red Bull-backed racer went from fifth to third in Saturday's Sprint race, making it two podiums from two races for Jehan this weekend and eighth this year. It was also his sixth top-three finish at Monza and second win at the track after the Indian won there last year. "What a weekend," said Jehan. "It's been a long time coming. We have had the win taken away from us for one reason or another on more than one occasion this year. But we have kept our heads down, kept believing and finally done it," he added.

"Monza is up there with one of my all-time favourite tracks and standing on the top step of this incredible podium, out over the main straight with the Indian national anthem playing out, feels so, so special."

Jehan made a good getaway, but starting on the dirty side of the grid, got bogged down after the initial start. Nevertheless, he kept sixth as the field went through the first chicane but lost a place to Juri Vips as he lifted in anticipation of a safety car after an opening-lap shunt involving Ralph Boschung and Theo Pourchaire.

Special one: Daruvala capitalised on a safety car and red flag-interrupted race to triumph. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Taking control

During the Safety Car period after lap eight, Jehan seized the opportunity to pit, moving him up to third once his rivals had pitted.

Once racing resumed, Jehan put on a masterclass of tyre management and race craft as he bided his time at first before piling the pressure on to race leader Richard Verschoor.

He passed Sato on Lap 18 of 30 and was hot on Verschoor's heels. But the Trident racer, struggling with tyre wear, dived into pits with just five laps to go, handing Jehan a lead he would keep until the chequered flag.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

BYFL steamrollers Snipers

BYFL registered a thumping 6-1 victory over Snipers in an under-18 match in the KSFA Youth Premier League on Sunday.

The results: U-18: FCBU 4 (Gurveer Singh 10, Thangjalen Haokip 30, Ishaan Raghunanda 58, Seigoulun Hengna 36) bt BBFS 0; BYFL 6 (Ngamring Kampuinamei 23, 53, 59, V. Shakthi Velu 30, Babu Boya 39, Parth Santhosh Hawle 40+1) bt Snippers 1 (Arjun Tudu 32); The Sports School 0 drew with Raman Sports Academy 0.

U-9: Vicky FA 3 (Sushil Suresh Kadkha 16, Nirmith Bhatt 18, Mufadd Taha Hararwala 35) bt Sport Hood 0; Impetus FA 2 (A. Rolaxman 1, N. Ashish Reshva 15) drew with Black Panthers 2 (Sayak Saha 22, Gurumaran 49); Kickstart FC 6 (J. Bernice Jedidiah 7, Abhiroop 12, Ninov 14, 21, 24, 30) bt Coolulu FA 1 (Vihaan Rajpal 23); Alchemy Int FA 3 (Jackson Yumnami 11, Md. Ashif 18, 20) bt BCFC 0; FCBU 5 (Amuit Ghosh 6, 37, Samar Jahagirdhar 25, 27, 35) bt Ronaldo FC 1 (Aarush Rajesh 23); Mysore Vijayanagar FA 5 (Rishabh R. Raj 12, 35, L. Hamshaik 15, M. Charith Channegowda 28, S.J. Mihith 30) bt Shooterz FA 0; Bulls 7s FA 2 (Reethish 8, 34) bt Raman SA 0; Young Blues Elite 5 (Numan Syed 10, 28, 32, 40, Francesco Robert Bagnoli 20) bt Conscient FA 2 (Vihaan Navaneeth 19, Gautam Vigil 32); Roots FS 3 (Tanav 26, 29, Yash 38) bt BYFL 2 (Samved Santhosh 32, 36).

Victorious duo: Yashaswini Ghorpade, right, and Oscar Birriel clinched the u-19 mixed doubles title at the WTT Youth Star Contender TT in Skopje. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Yashaswini-Oscar win

Karnataka's Yashaswini Ghorpade, and partner Oscar Birriel, won the under-19 mixed doubles title at the WTT Youth Star Contender table tennis tournament in Skopje. The duo defeated Borna Petek (Croatia) and Cheng Pusyuan (Taipei) 7-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9 in the final.

Easy for Chinmaya

Chinmaya Vidyalaya defeated Ideal Sports Academy 7-2 in a BHA President's Cup 5-A-Side hockey tournament match here on Sunday.

Gill sixth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ATHENS

India's Gaurav Gill came up with an impressive performance to finish sixth in the WRC 2 category at the Acropolis Rally in Greece.

Gill showed immense grit and pushed his car to extremes in baking heat.

On Saturday after stage 8, Gill was ninth in his class with a difference of 30.8s from the leader Andreas Mikkelsen. Gill, who is a master of gravel and manoeuvring tough terrains, worked up his paces and upgraded himself through the remaining stages of the event.

Clocking some of his best times, he was just three seconds off per km to far superior cars of overall WRC leader T Neuville (Hyundai Works).

Australia drubs China, takes title

Japan finishes third beating Chinese Taipei

No stopping them: The Australians celebrate a memorable triumph. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

BASKETBALL

K. KEERTHIVASAN
BENGALURU

Australia outclassed China 81-55 in the Division A final of the FIBA Asian women's under-18 basketball championship at the Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Sunday.

Watched by a moderate crowd, Australia demonstrated its ruthlessness in defensive and offensive rebounds yet again to subdue China in a way few teams have been able to. China hardly put up a fight as Australia led comfortably in all quarters.

Centre Isla Juffermans, guard Isobel Borlase, forward Nyadiew Puoch and point guard Dallas Loughridge were outstanding in the summit clash, as they have been throughout the tournament.

The height factor came into play as China could hardly penetrate the Oz defence. China's key players, forward Wenxia Li and shooting guard Jing Wang couldn't do much in a defence manned by Juffermans.

China introduced its tallest player, Jiyang Ge (6'7") in the second quarter, but baskets continued to come at a regular pace.

Juffermans was the top-scorer (26) for Australia and emerged its most valuable player. Guard Loughridge proved to be equally valuable, scoring 17 points.

Earlier, Japan finished third, defeating Chinese Taipei 64-53.

Malaysia qualified for Division A with a 64-53 win over Mongolia in the Division B final.

The results:
Division A:
Final: Australia 81 (Sophie Burrows 11, Dallas Loughridge 17, Nyadiew Puoch 14, Isla Juffermans 26) bt China 55 (Jing Wang 16).
Third place play-off: Japan 77 (Chinami Yokoyama 16, Mnami Yabu 12, Nanami Owaki 10) bt Chinese Taipei 45 (Hsing Em Uamg 10, Yu Wen Hsiao 12).

Sasikumar clinches title

SPORTS BUREAU

Second seed Sasikumar Mukund beat seventh seed Duarte Vale of Portugal 7-6(6), 3-6, 6-0 in the final of the $25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Sintra, Portugal, on Sunday.

In the battle that lasted two hours and 45 minutes, the 25-year-old Sasikumar converted four of nine break points that he forced.

He led 5-3 in the first set before winning it in the tie-break, saving a set point.

Sasikumar dropped serve in the sixth game of the second set, which proved decisive.

However, Sasikumar raced through the decider conceding only six points in all in three games.

Sasikumar served three of his four aces in the match in the final set to assert his authority.

This was the sixth singles title in the ITF circuit for Sasikumar, who had last won one in 2017.

He was ranked a career-best 229 in 2019, and has been busy in the Challenger circuit.

Sasikumar had opted to compete in the ITF events in an attempt to get more matches before the Davis Cup tie against Norway.

The results: $25,000 ITF men, Sintra, Portugal (final): Sasikumar Mukund bt Duarte Vale (Por) 7-6(6), 3-6, 6-0.

Australia sweeps series in Finch farewell

Smith's century helps hosts set defendable target

NZ IN AUS

REUTERS
CAIRNS

Australia beat New Zealand by 25 runs in the third One-Day International here on Sunday to complete a 3-0 series sweep and give captain Aaron Finch a winning farewell in his final ODI appearance.

Steve Smith made 105, his 12th ODI century, to help Australia overcome a sluggish start and post a competitive 267 for five on a slow track. New Zealand managed 242 in reply before being all out in 49.5 overs.

"It's been a fun ride, like I said yesterday. I've loved every bit of it," said Finch, who will continue to lead Australia in T20 games.

Put in, Australia slumped to 16 for two in the sixth over after losing both openers. Having secured the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy with a match to spare, Australia rested David Warner for the dead rubber.

Josh Inglis could not make the most of the opportunity and scored 10 before Trent Boult had him caught behind.

Smith. •AFP

Finch made five in his 146th match before being bowled by Tim Southee, finishing his ODI career with 5,406 runs including 17 hundreds at an average of 38.89.

The scores: Australia 267/5 in 50 overs (Steve Smith 105, Marnus Labuschagne 52, Alex Carey 42 n,o., Cameroon Green 25 n.o.) bt New Zealand 242 in 49.5 overs (Finn Allen 35, Kane Williamson 27, Glenn Phillips 47, James Neesham 36, Mitchell Santner 30; Mitchell Starc 3/60). **Toss:** New Zealand; **MoM & MoS:** Smith. *Australia won by 25 runs to sweep series 3-0.*

Finch's ODI journey in numbers

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	100s/50s
Overall	146	142	**5406**	153*	38.89	87.73	17/30
As captain	55	55	**2105**	153*	39.71	83.83	6/13

Verstappen wins Italian GP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MONZA

Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen again made light work of starting down the grid as he won the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday to leave him within touching distance of a second successive title.

Verstappen now has a 116-point lead over Charles Leclerc, who finished second after another questionable strategy decision from Ferrari on its home track. With just six races remaining, the Dutch driver could mathematically clinch the title in Singapore next month.

It was the first time Verstappen has set foot on the iconic Monza podium, with his highest previous finish being fifth in 2018.

Verstappen started seventh after he was among a number of drivers hit by grid penalties in Monza but made his way up to third by the first corner of the second lap. The Red Bull driver then picked off George Russell in a Mercedes at the start of Lap 5 setting up the hunt for polesitter Leclerc in his Ferrari.

The Virtual Safety Car gave him an opportunity as it came out on Lap 12 after Sebastian Vettel's final race at Monza came to an ignominious end, with the four-time world champion pulling up at the side of the track after complaining about a power issue.

The results: 1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1h 20m 27.511s; 2. Leclerc (Ferrari) +2.446s; 3. Russell (Mercedes) +3.405; 4. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari) +5.061; 5. Hamilton (Mercedes) +5.380; 6. Perez (Red Bull) +6.091; 7. Norris (McLaren) +6.207; 8. Gasly (AlphaTauri) +6.396; 9. de Vries (Williams) +7.122; 10. Guanyu (Alfa Romeo) +7.910; 11. Ocon (Alpine) +8.323; 12. Mick Schumacher (Haas) +8.549; **+1 lap:** 13. Bottas (Alfa Romeo); 14. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); 15. Latifi (Williams); 16. Magnussen (Haas); **DNF:** Ricciardo (McLaren); Stroll (Aston Martin); Alonso (Alpine); Vettel (Aston Martin).

Standings (top-5): Drivers: 1. Verstappen 335; 2. Leclerc 219; 3. Perez 210; 4. Russell 203; 5. Sainz 187.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull Racing 545; 2. Ferrari 406; 3. Mercedes 371; 4. Alpine 125; 5. McLaren 107.

Way ahead: Verstappen now has a 116-point lead over Leclerc, who finished second. •AP

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